SUPER A™

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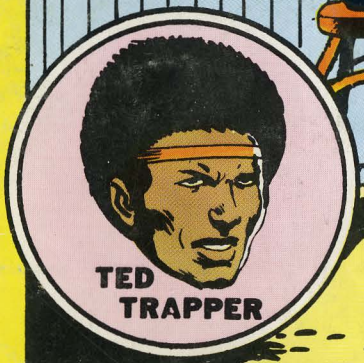

Robin, wake up! We are trapped with the tigers!

SRA

A Motivational Reading Kit

by James D. White
Teacher and Consultant
Author of *Talking with a Child*

CONSULTANTS:

Mario Fantini
Dean and Professor
School of Education
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dorothy Frankman Michener
Assistant District Principal
North Bellmore
New York

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WARNER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

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BAD TIMES UNDER THE BIG TOP

Robin flew through the air toward great harm! Batman stood helplessly before the big cats! And they met the most dangerous cat of all! Catwoman!

The owner of the Tip Top Circus welcomed a famous visitor.

I'm Anna Byrd. We need you here, Robin. Our trained animals are disappearing.

And some of our people have been badly hurt.

I'll work in your circus, Anna. Then maybe I can find the trouble and help you.

This is Bernie Byrd. He's my brother. Bernie does an act on the high wire.

It's good to have you with us, Robin!

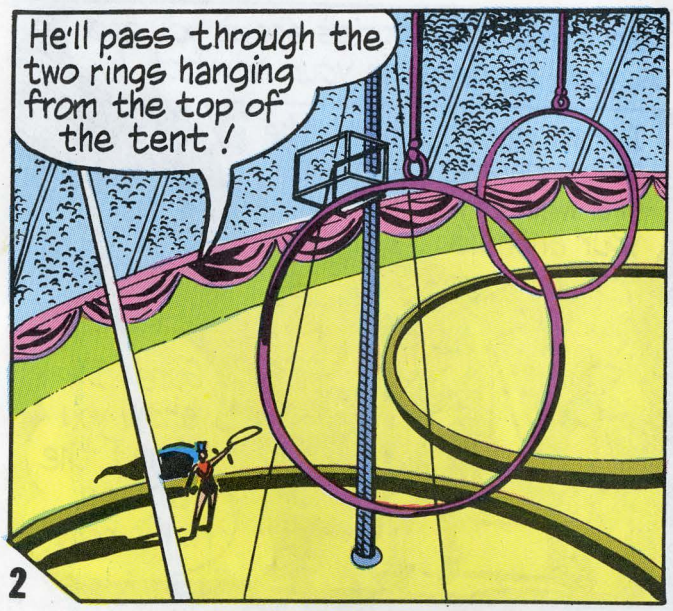
Thank you, Bernie. I've heard of the famous Flying Byrd.

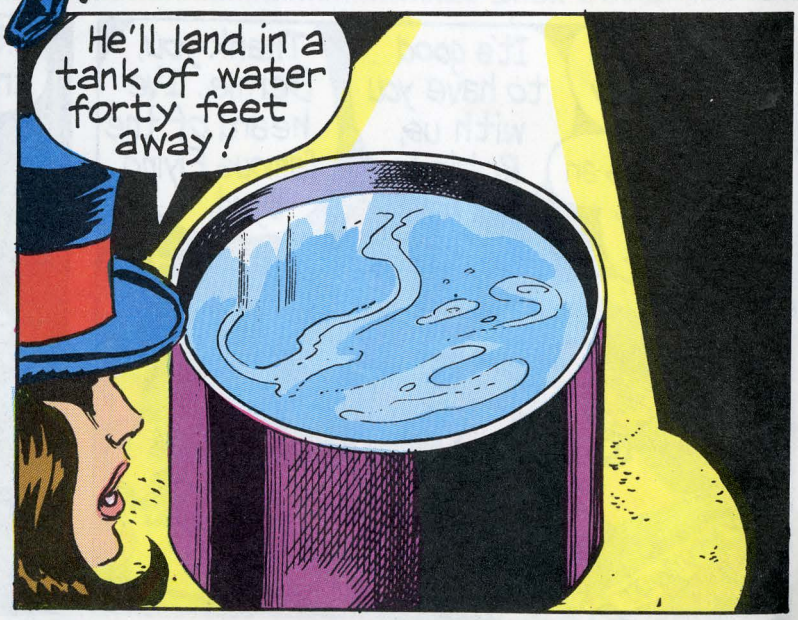
Robin, if half the stories about you are true, you'll be great in your new act!

I also want to meet the circus people. And let's see where you keep your animals.

Sure! I'll show you around the big top right now!

The circus is popcorn, candy, peanuts, and balloons. It is excitement, clowns, and danger. It is the clear voice of the ringmistress.
Ladies and gentlemen! Welcome to the Tip Top Circus! Look now in the center ring!
And now! Here to thrill you is Namow, the Queen of the Tigers! She's been with us for a month!
Watch Namow's tigers carefully! They are the only trained white tigers in the world.
Next! Here is Robin, the newest thrill in our circus. Robin will be shot from a cannon!

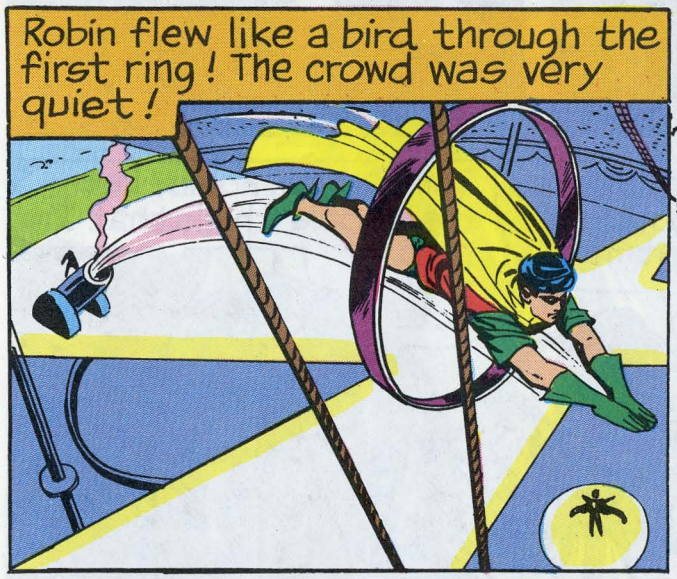

He'll pass through the two rings hanging from the top of the tent!

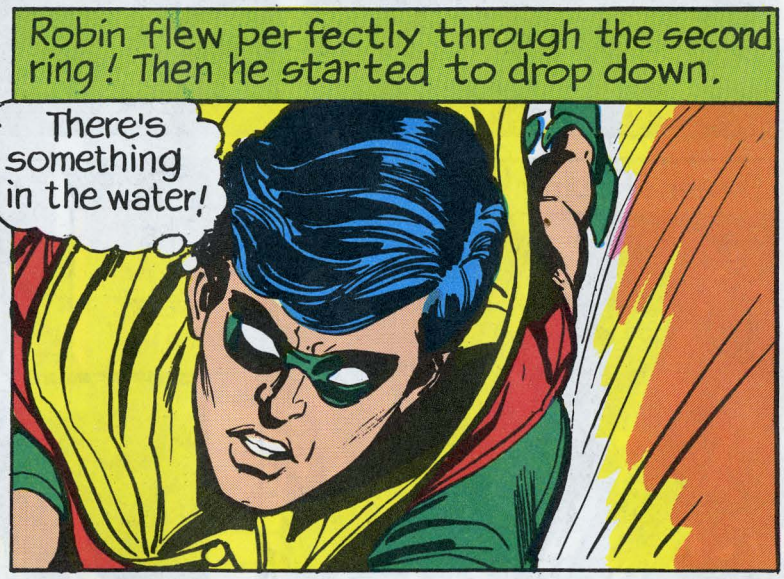

He'll land in a tank of water forty feet away!

Don't worry, Robin! The cannon is aimed right at that tank of water. You'll enjoy the flight!
All right! Let's go, Bernie!

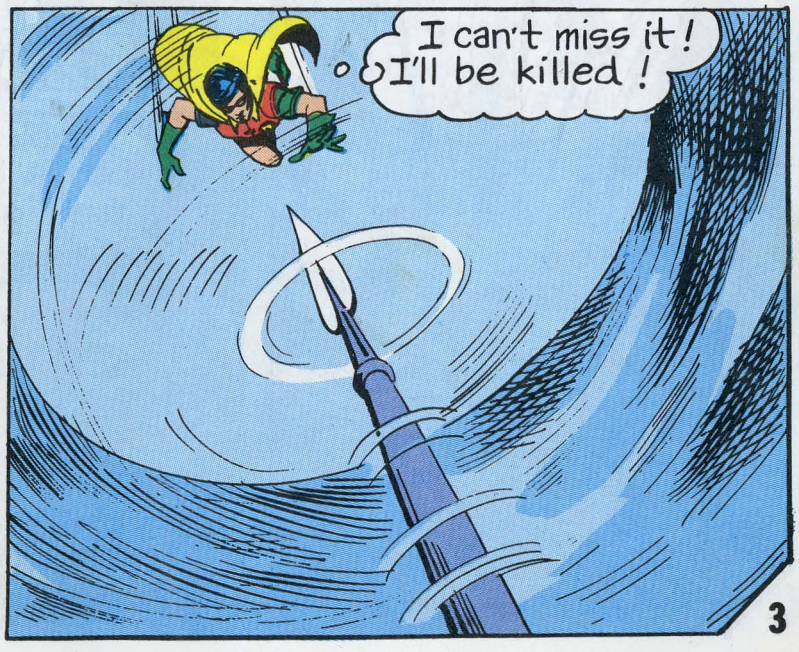
Bernie snapped the string on the big cannon!

Bang! Whoosh! Robin shot through a puff of smoke!
BLAM!

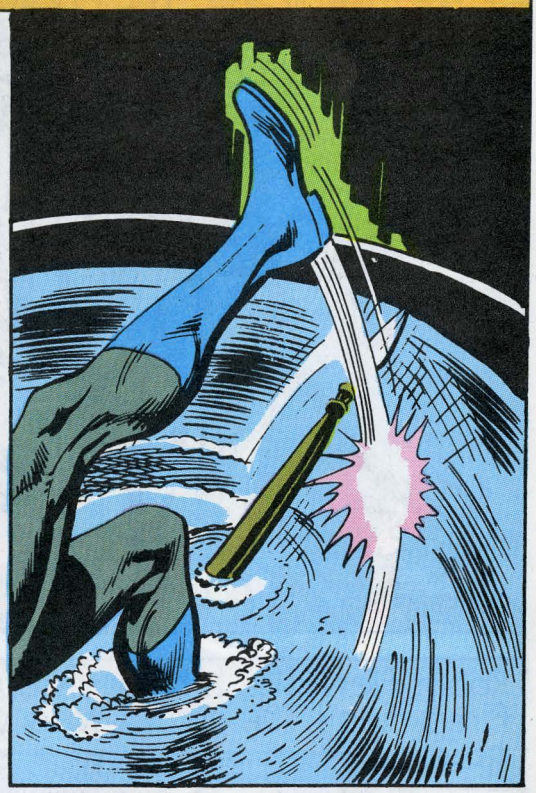

Robin flew like a bird through the first ring! The crowd was very quiet!


Robin flew perfectly through the second ring! Then he started to drop down.
There's something in the water!

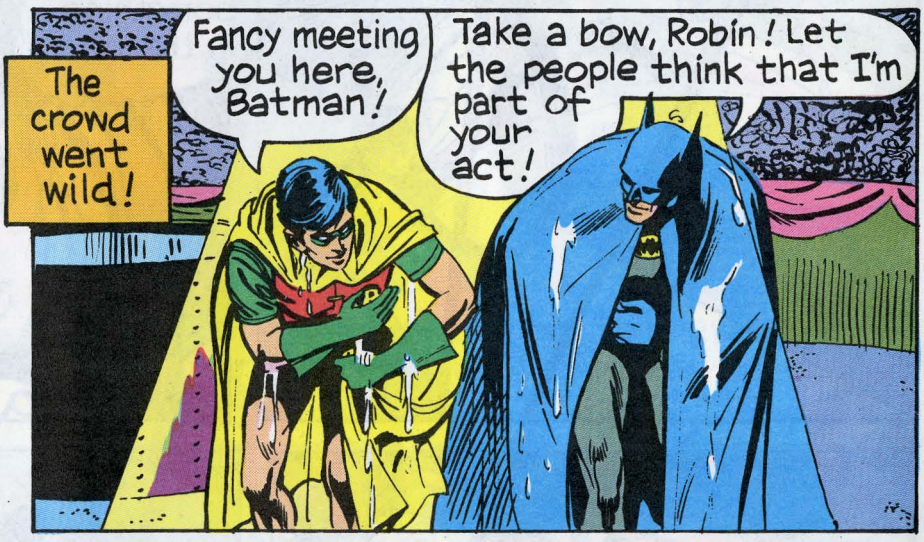
There's a spear in the center of the tank!

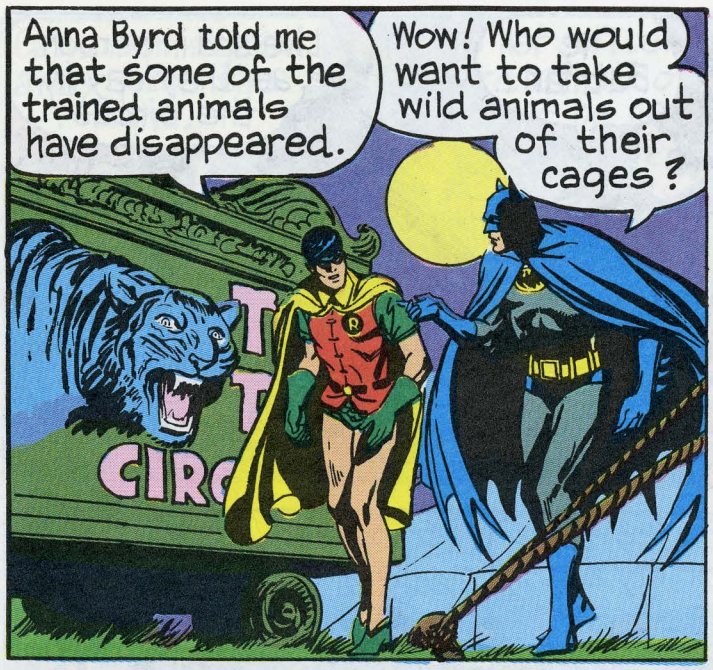

I can't miss it! I'll be killed!

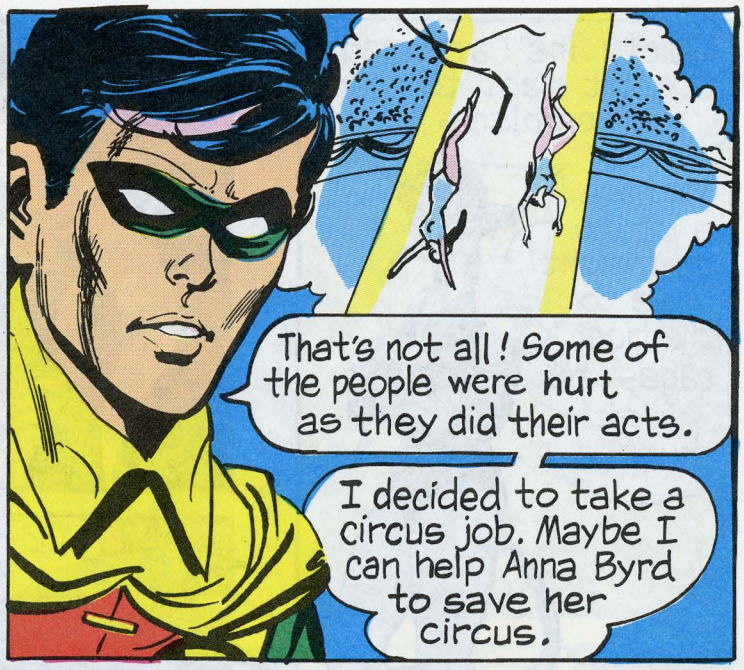
At the last second, a dark shadow ran toward the tank. Batman! He quickly jumped over the tank's edge. And his foot kicked the spear to one side!

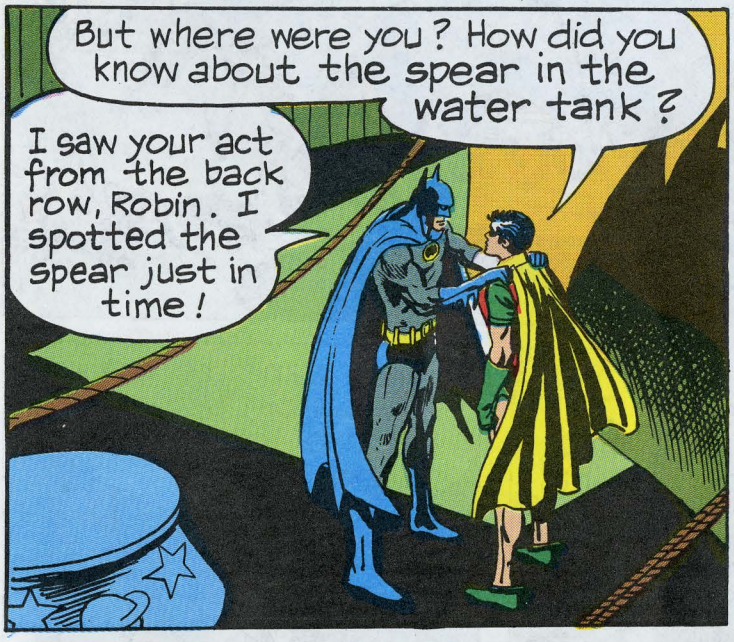


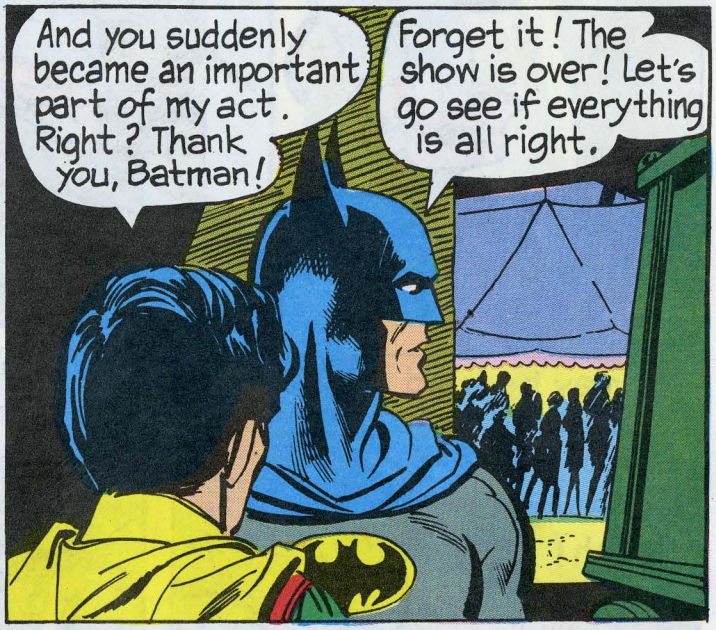
Splash! Robin hit the water!

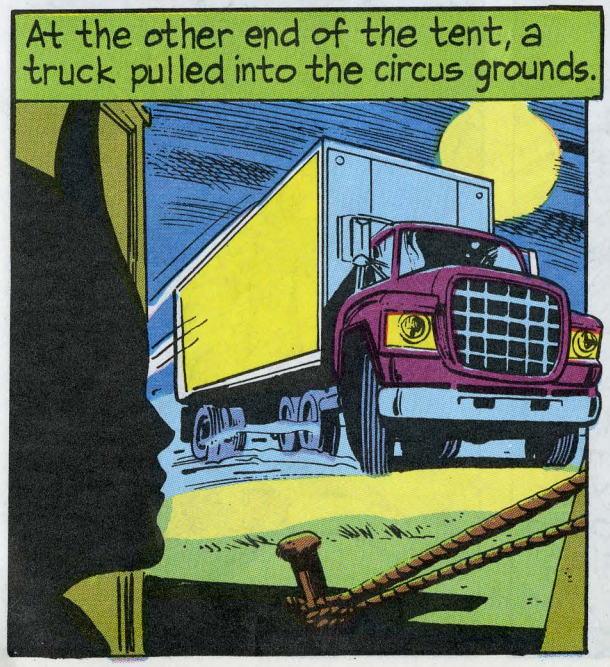


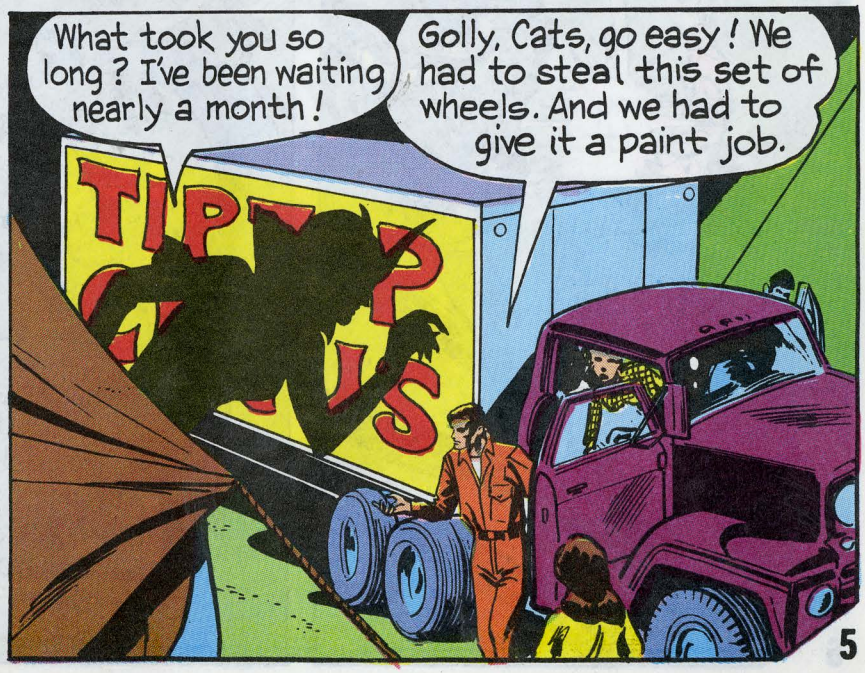

Anna Byrd told me that some of the trained animals have disappeared.
Wow! Who would want to take wild animals out of their cages?


That's not all! Some of the people were hurt as they did their acts.
I decided to take a circus job. Maybe I can help Anna Byrd to save her circus.

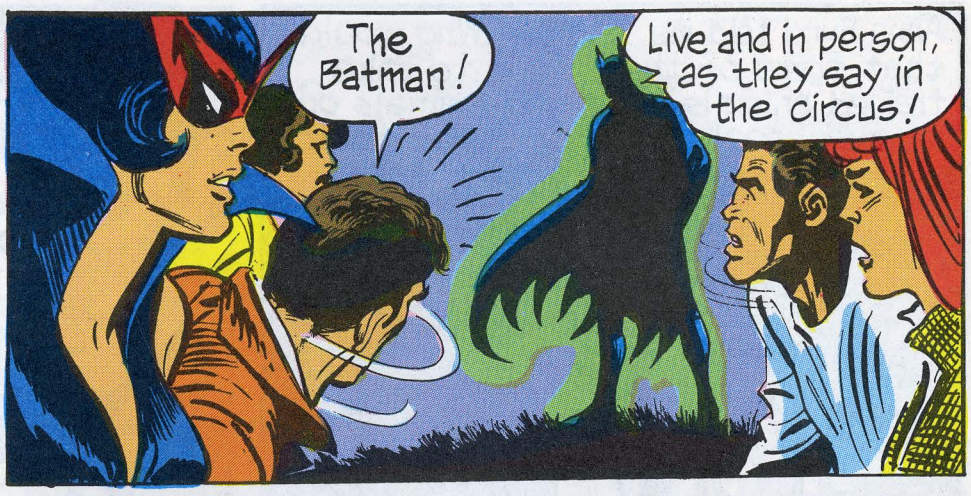

But where were you? How did you know about the spear in the water tank?
I saw your act from the back row, Robin. I spotted the spear just in time!

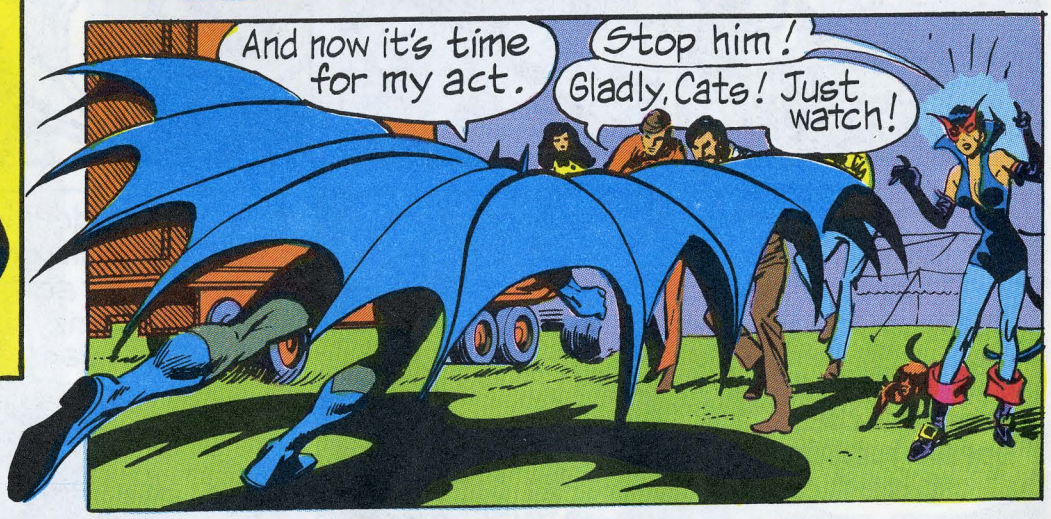

And you suddenly became an important part of my act. Right? Thank you, Batman!
Forget it! The show is over! Let's go see if everything is all right.


At the other end of the tent, a truck pulled into the circus grounds.


What took you so long? I've been waiting nearly a month!
Golly, Cats, go easy! We had to steal this set of wheels. And we had to give it a paint job.

Quiet! The Catwoman doesn't want to hear your problems!
We have a job to do tonight! Drive to the tiger cages! We must hurry!

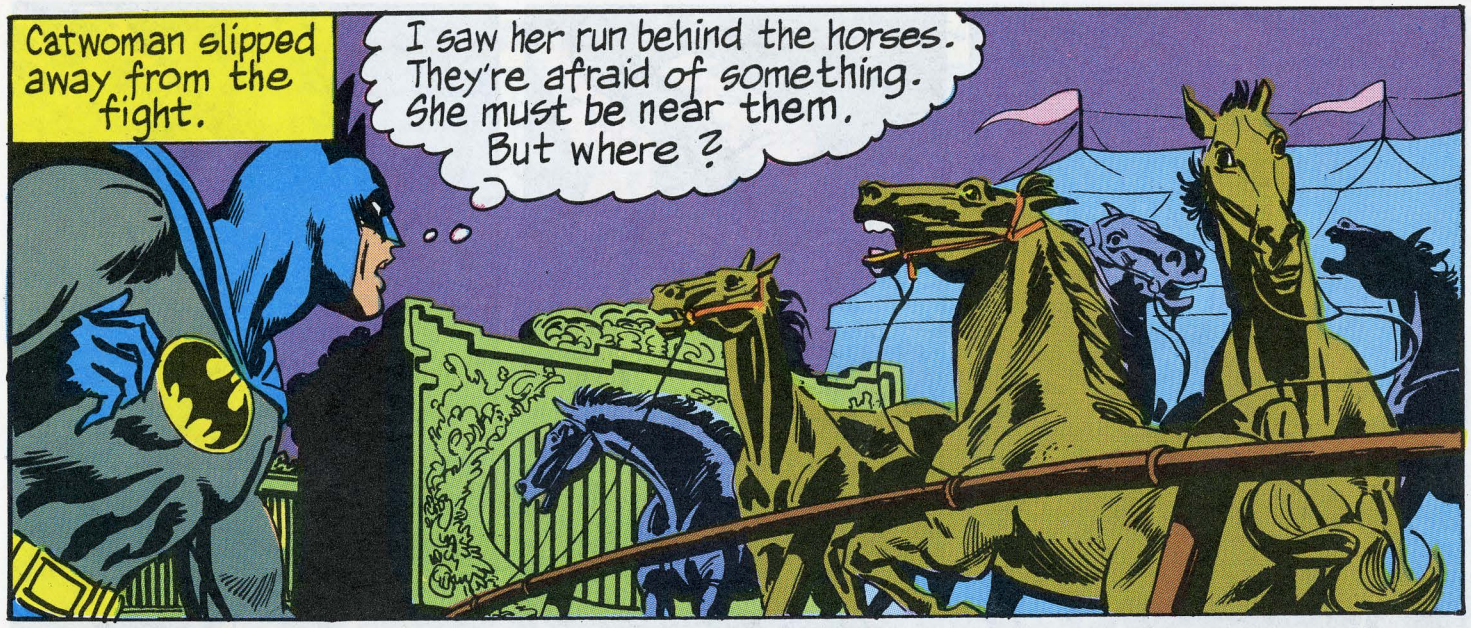

The Batman!
Live and in person, as they say in the circus!

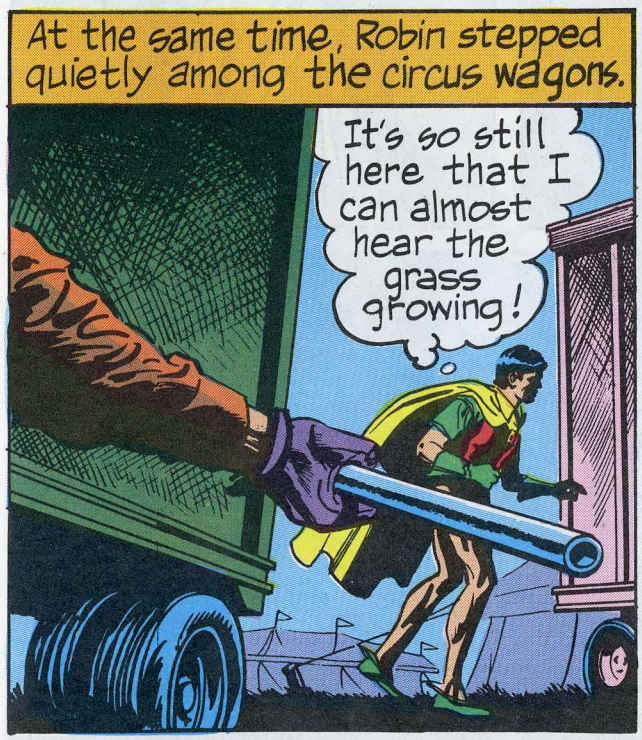

And now it's time for my act.
Stop him!
Gladly, Cats! Just watch!

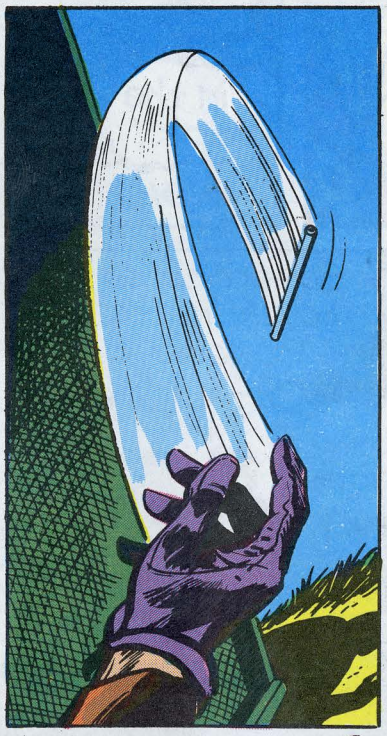
You may be glad, but you're not very good.
Unghh!

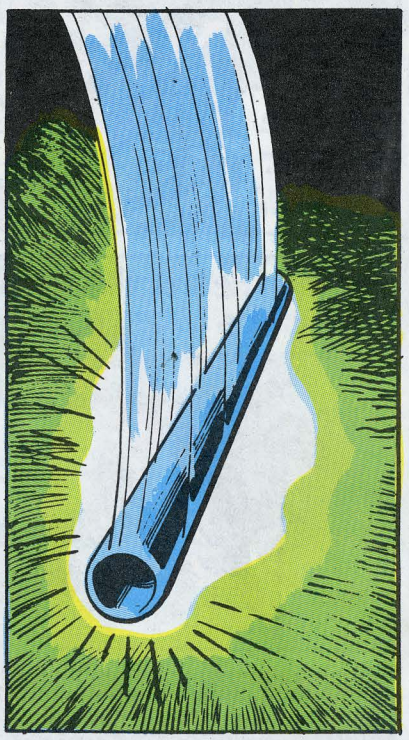
I'll grab his cape!
And I'll hit him!
Poor act! You couldn't fight your way through a swinging door!

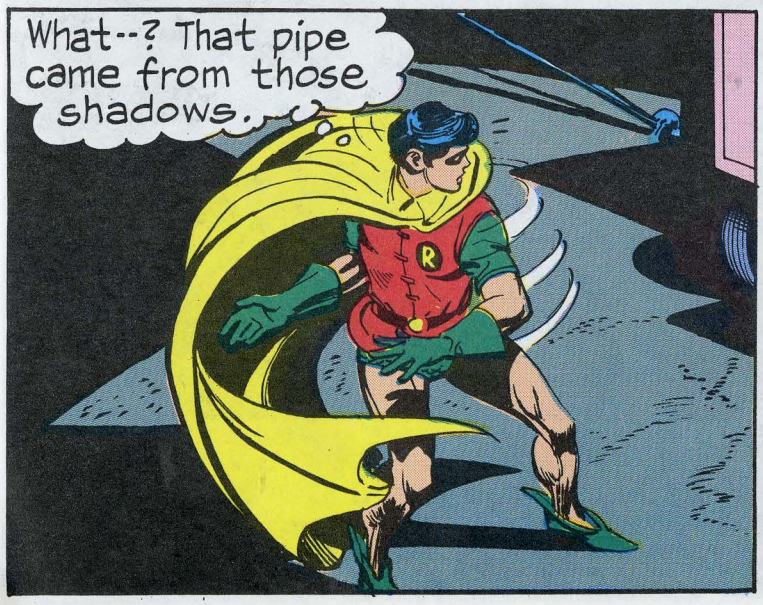
If you want to work in this circus, you'll need a lot more practice!


Catwoman slipped away from the fight.
I saw her run behind the horses. They're afraid of something. She must be near them. But where ?


At the same time, Robin stepped quietly among the circus wagons.
It's so still here that I can almost hear the grass growing!



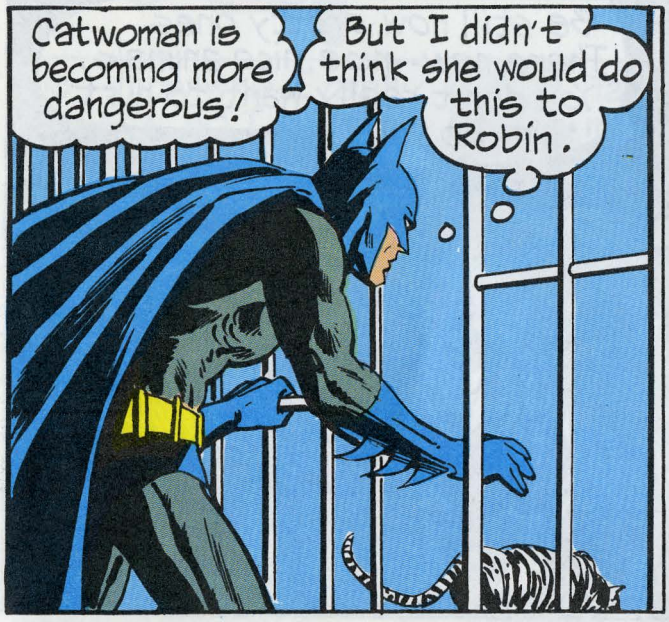


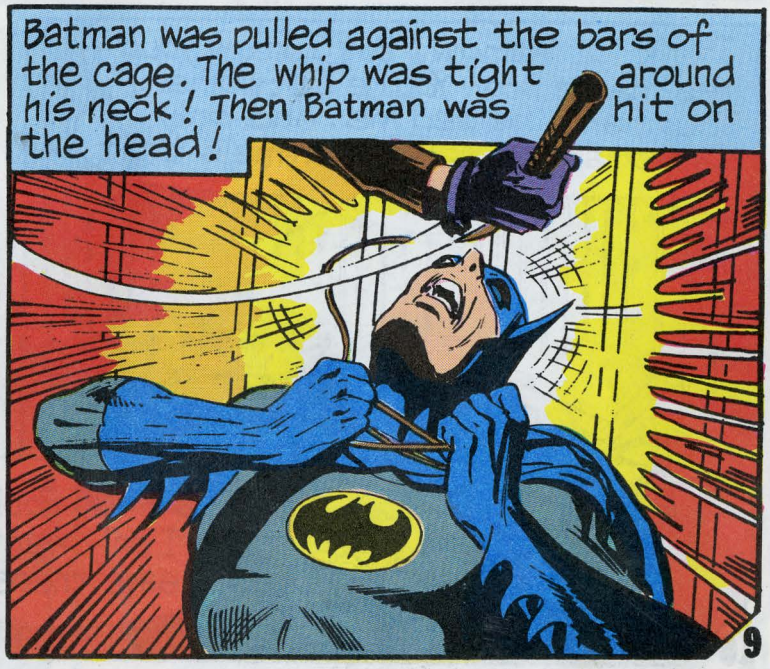

What--? That pipe came from those shadows.

It's probably nothing!

THUD!
I fell for the oldest trick...
KICK!
...in the book!
UNGHH!
Batman heard the big cats...
ROAR!
Something is bothering the tigers!
Something or someone!
Maybe Catwoman is in there with the cats!
What happened to Robin? Is Batman heading for trouble? What does Catwoman want?
END OF PART 1

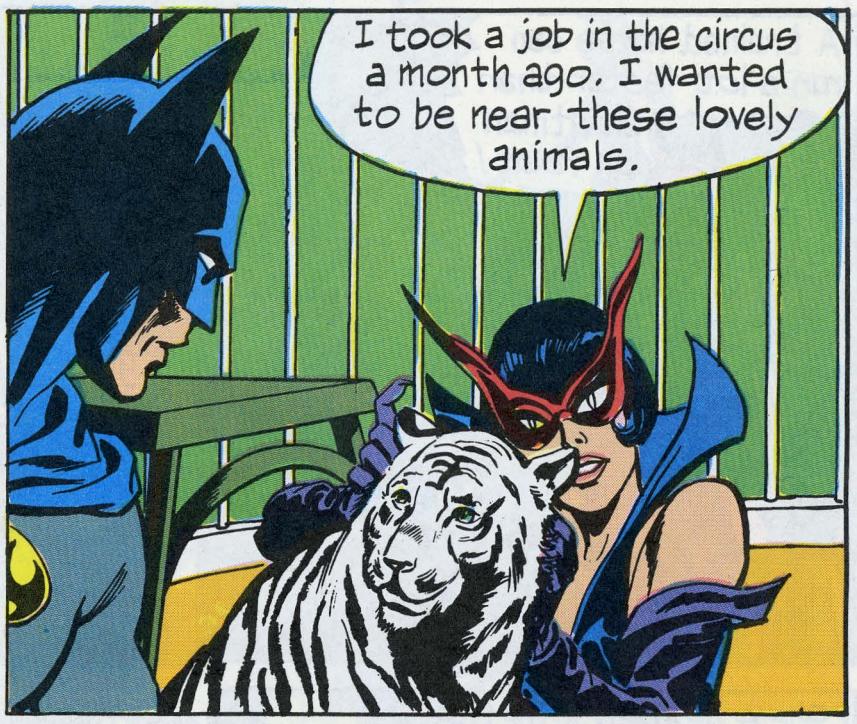
BAD TIMES UNDER THE BIG TOP-PART 2



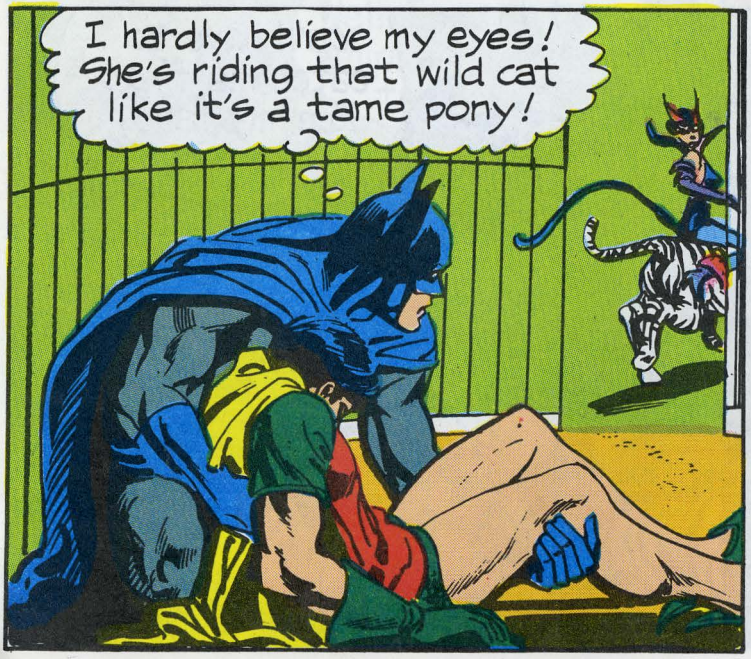


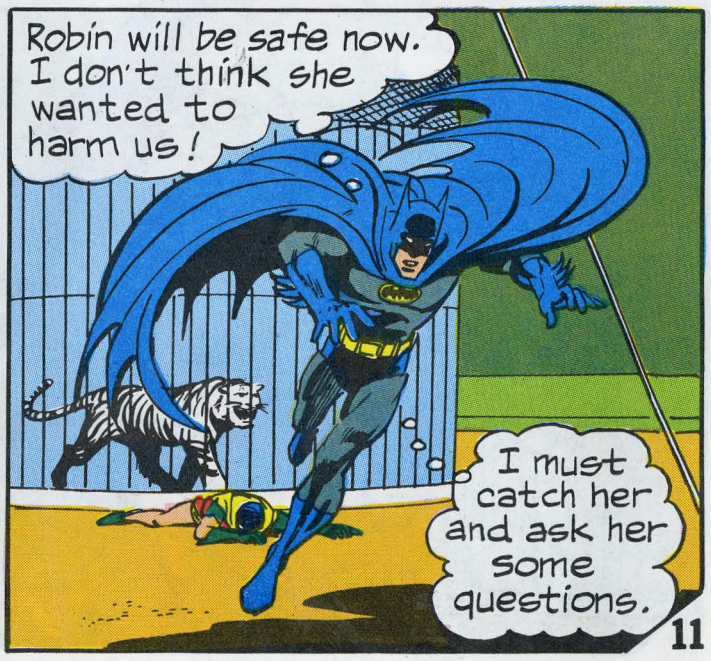
A roar woke Batman. When he opened his eyes, he faced an angry tiger!
Do I have time to untie these ropes?
Come away, my lovely cat!
Namow!
Leave that man alone, my beautiful friend!
Be still now, pretty ones. There now--nice, nice animals. You don't really want to hurt him, do you?
Thank you, Namow! But I know your real name now. You're Catwoman! Your name helped me. And only Catwoman can talk to animals that way.
You can take off that mask now. You won't need it in jail. Why did you try to kill Robin?
Kill Robin? No, no! I only wanted to save these tigers!

They're the most beautiful tigers on Earth.
You really love cats, don't you?

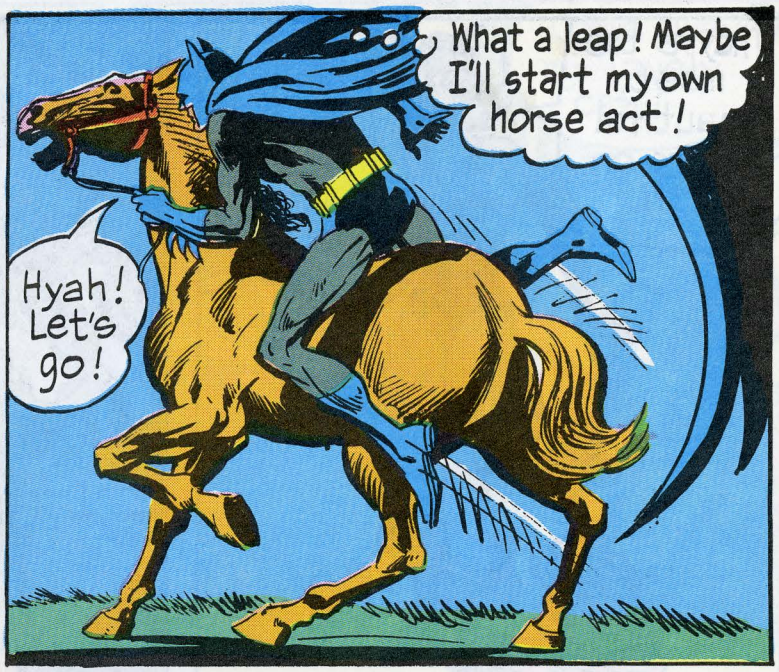

I took a job in the circus a month ago. I wanted to be near these lovely animals.

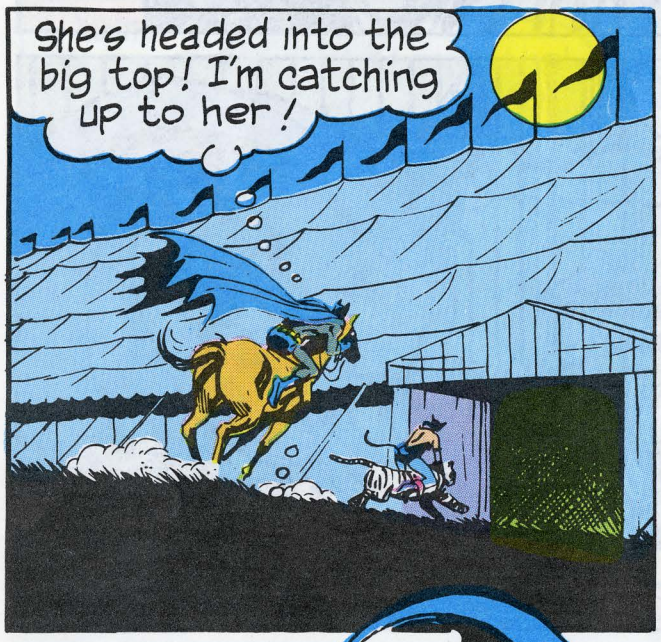
You know who I really am now, so I must go away. And this pretty baby will come with me!
Take me away, my beauty!


I hardly believe my eyes! She's riding that wild cat like it's a tame pony!

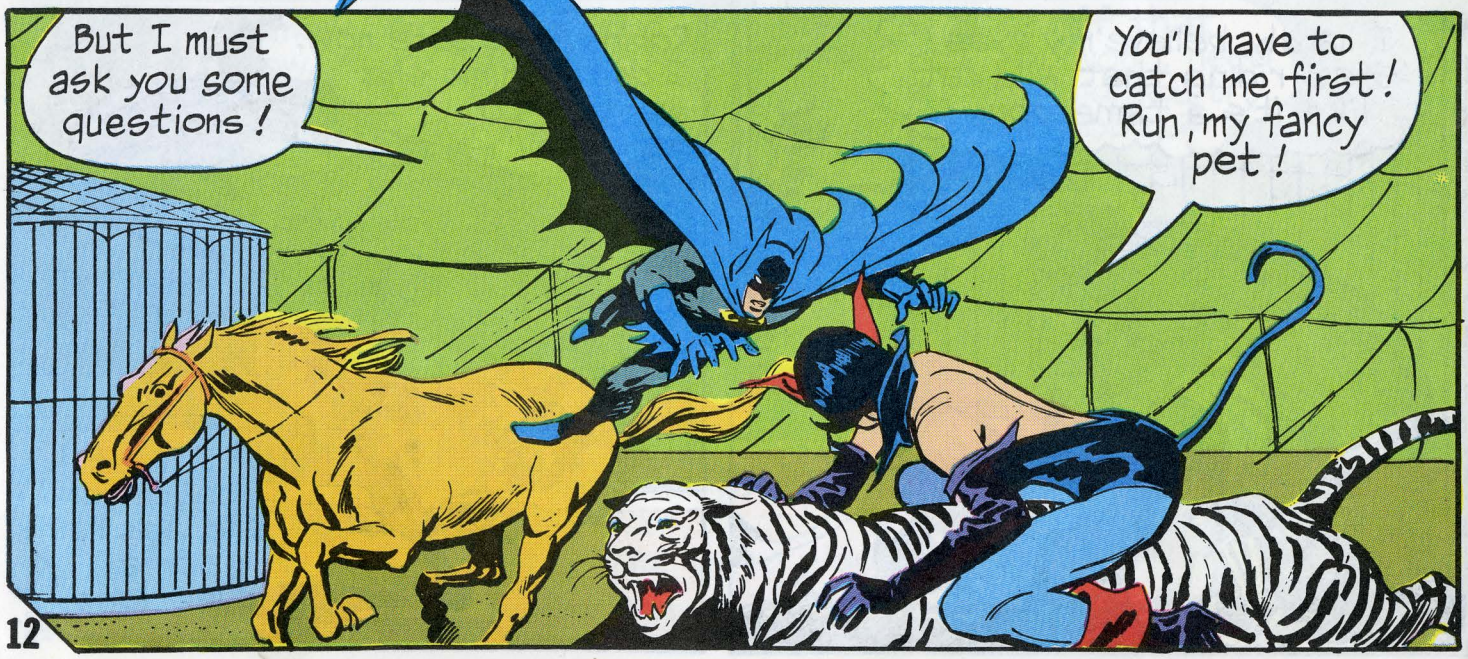

Robin will be safe now. I don't think she wanted to harm us!
I must catch her and ask her some questions.

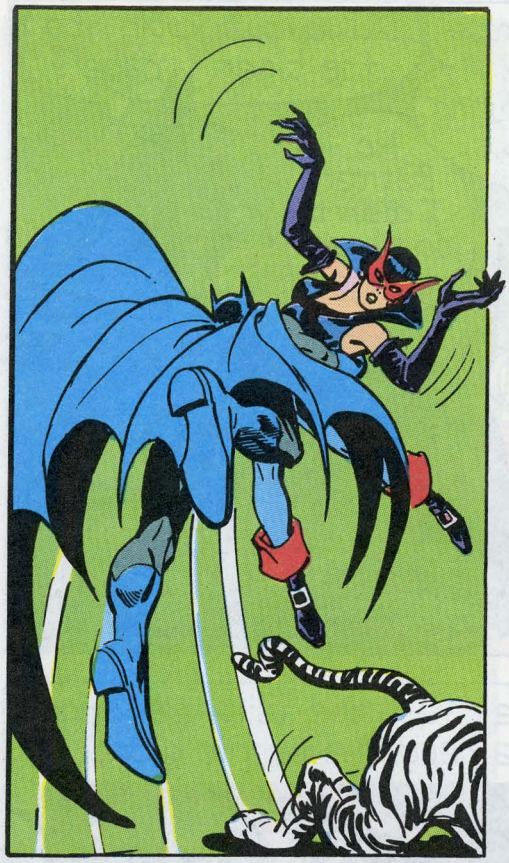
A trained horse can run a lot faster than a Batman on foot!

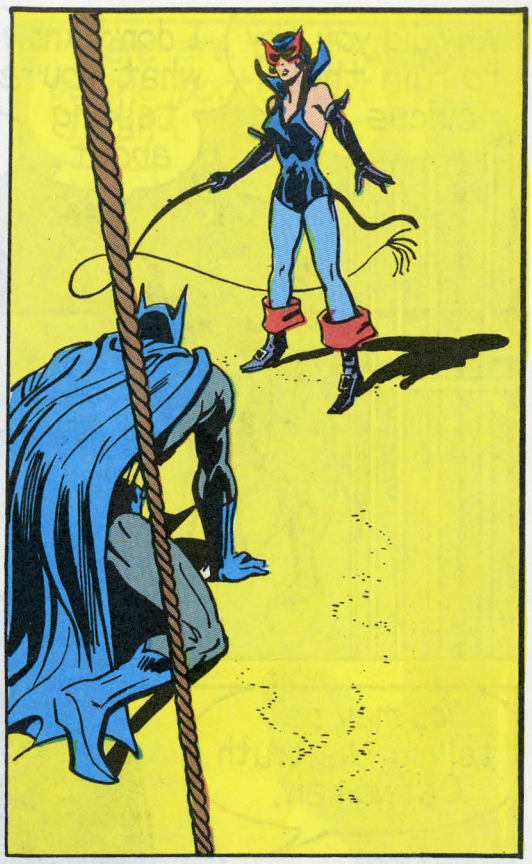

What a leap! Maybe I'll start my own horse act!
Hyah! Let's go!

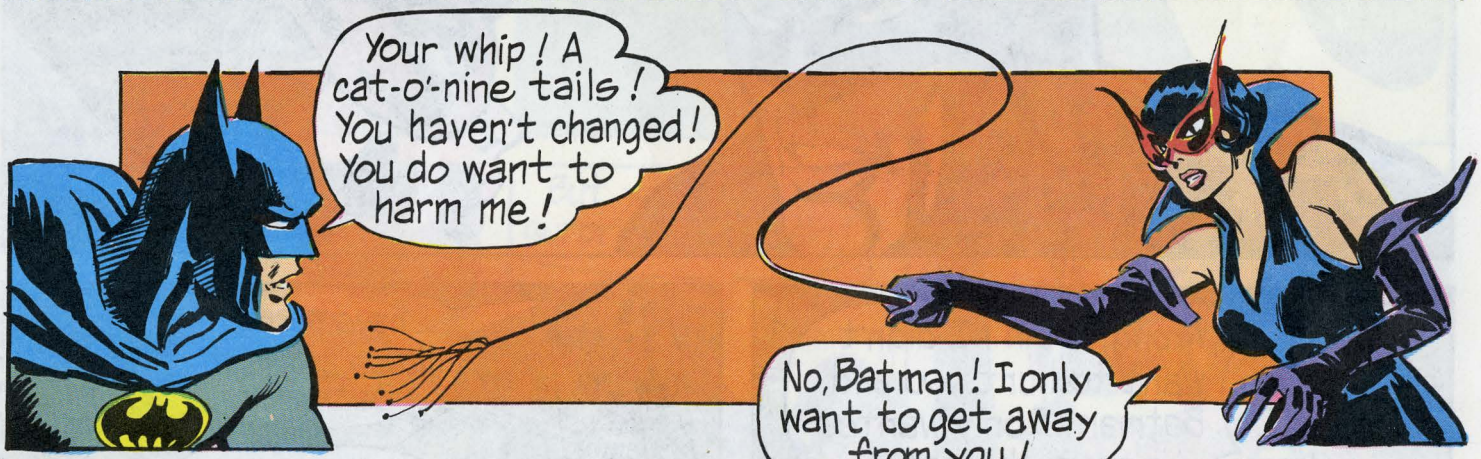

She's headed into the big top! I'm catching up to her!

Catwoman! Please give up! Don't make me fight you!
You won't stop my cat and me! We don't like bats or Batman!


But I must ask you some questions!
You'll have to catch me first! Run, my fancy pet!





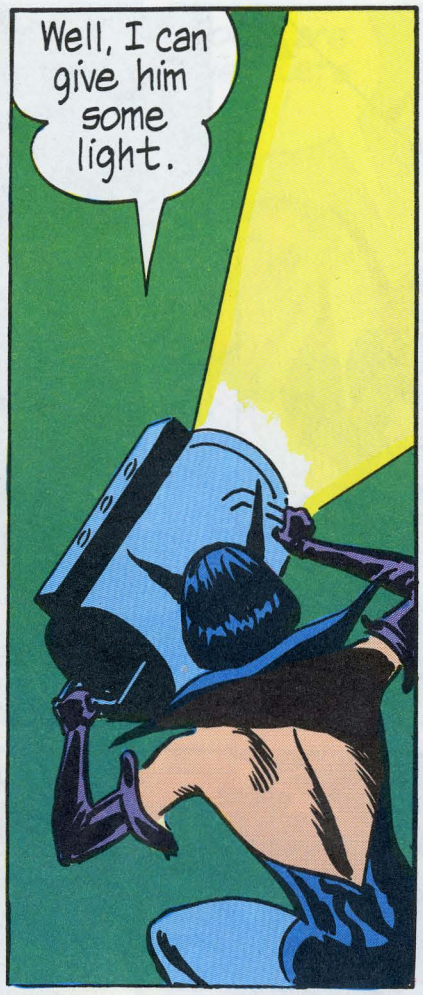

Your whip! A cat-o'-nine tails! You haven't changed! You do want to harm me!
No, Batman! I only want to get away from you!

Well, I won't be whipped a second time tonight!

What? I haven't whipped you at all tonight!
Then who did?

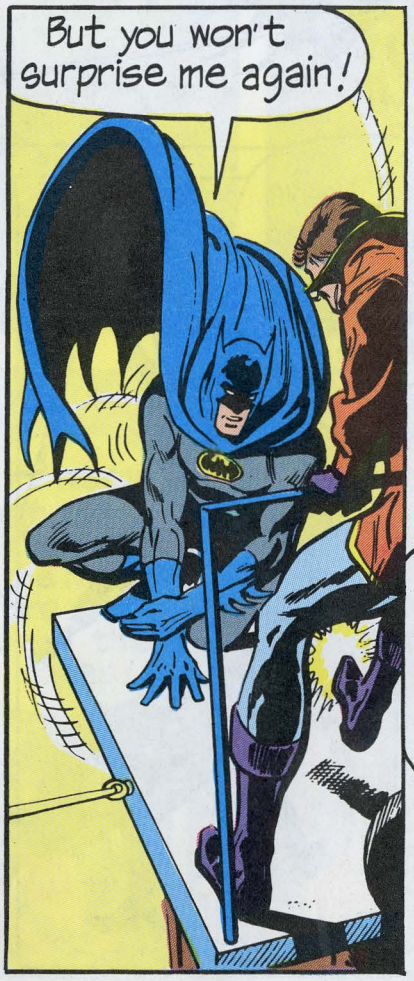
Why did you try to ruin the circus ?
I don't know what you're talking about.
Some of the trained animals have disappeared.
And some circus people were badly hurt during their acts.
Did you put Robin into the tiger cage ?
No, Batman! I didn't do those things!
You may be telling the truth, Catwoman.
But I saw a cat-o'-nine-tails like yours. And I saw a hand in a purple glove.
I saw purple gloves, too. And I remember purple boots. Like yours.
Wrong, Robin ! I didn't want to hurt you and Batman. I only wanted to take the cats away with me.
I have purple gloves and boots, Batman !
Then I'm coming up there for you !

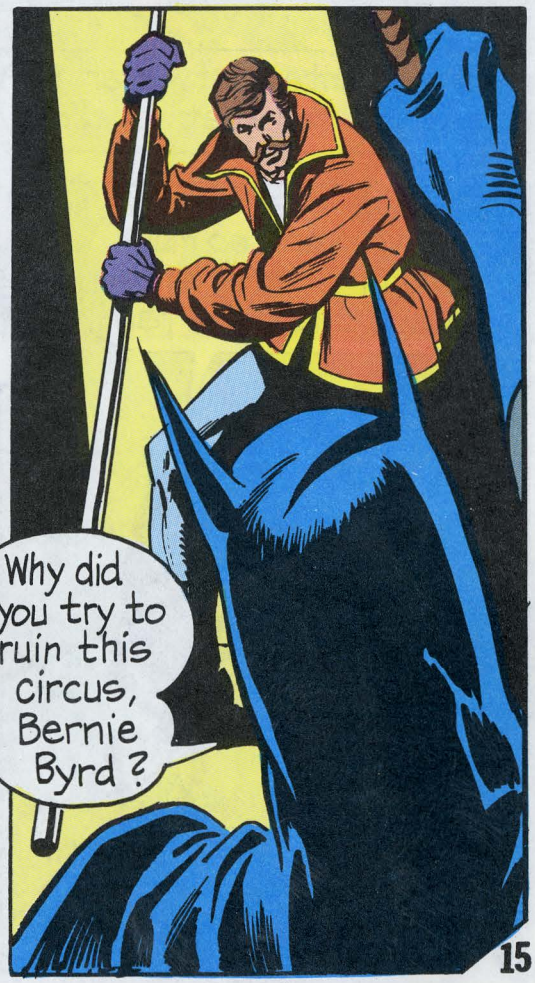
After you, my dear Batman!
Sorry, Catwoman. Robin may need your help. He is still weak.
This will be my high wire act.


Well, I can give him some light.

There are the purple boots! But I can't see your face!
You may not live to find out, Batman! You're about to have a very bad fall!

You surprised me in the cage tonight.


But you won't surprise me again!


Why did you try to ruin this circus, Bernie Byrd?

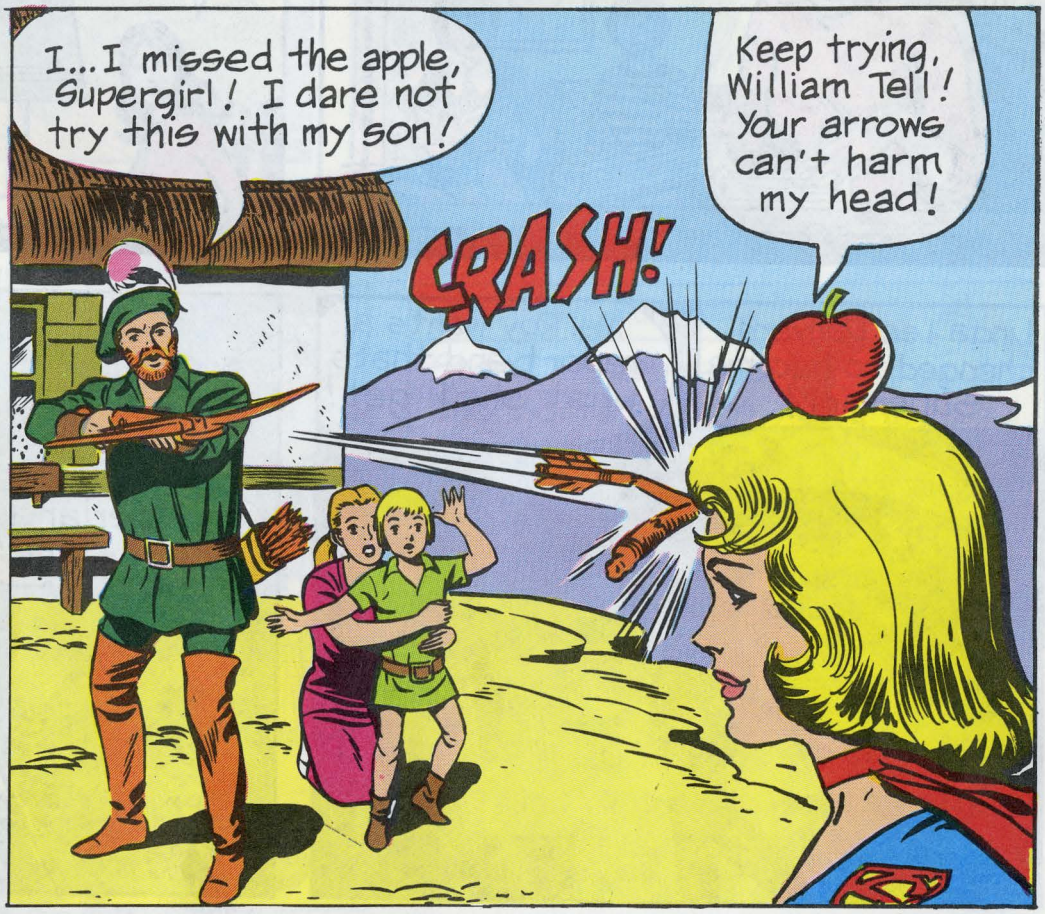
My sister Anna owns all of this circus.
And I don't own anything.
I wanted half!
You tried to kill Robin!
You wanted your circus friends to be hurt! You wanted the animals to disappear!
And you wanted Catwoman to go to jail for what you did!
You've made so much pain for your friends. I should let you fall!
But I'll save you instead. There will be no more pain here.
Our act is over. This Byrd will not fly again!
The End

SUPERGIRL MEETS WILLIAM TELL!

Supergirl wanted to see for herself what the man was like. She wanted to report the story as it really happened.

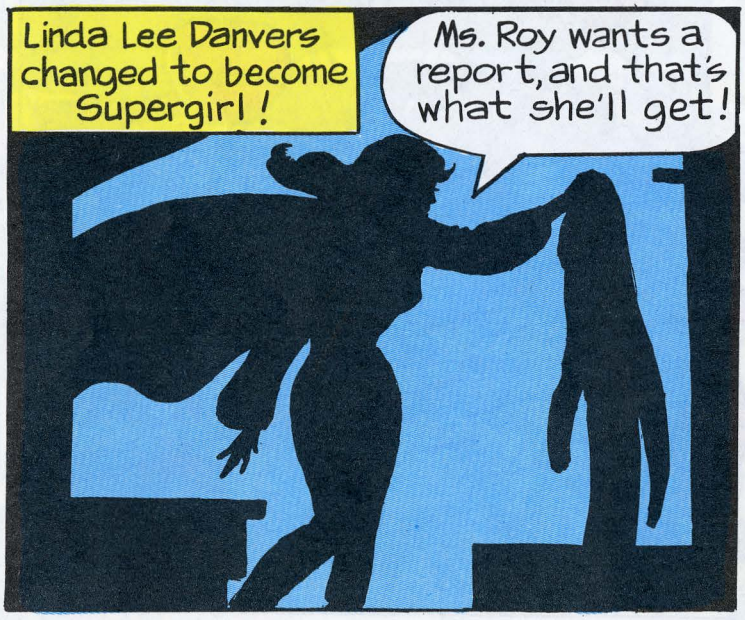
The mighty girl flashed back six hundred years into the past.

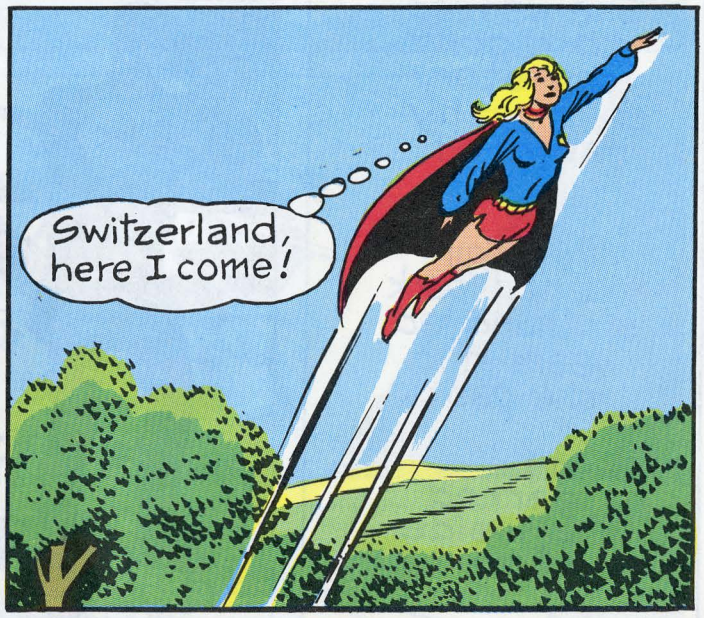
And she learned the inside story!

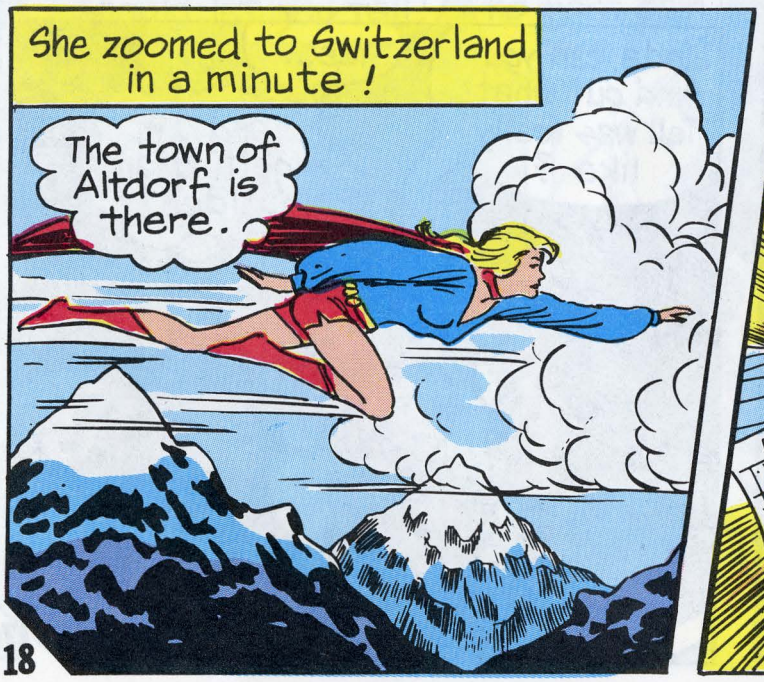


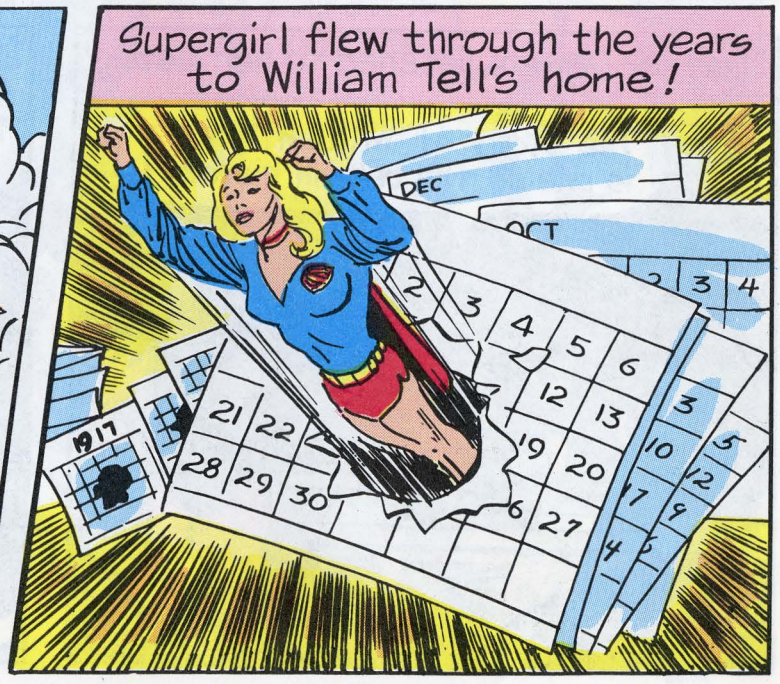
Later, Supergirl and two friends did their homework together.
I've read everything I can find about William Tell! But I don't think I have the whole story.
Don't worry, Linda. You'll have a great report for Ms. Roy.

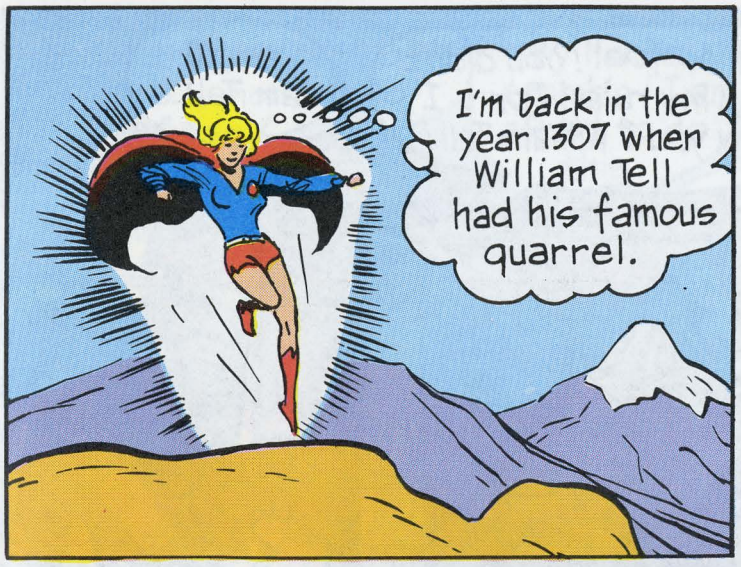
But all I can write has already been written about Tell. I'd like to say something new and different.
That sounds like an all-night writing job. I'm going to bed.
Me too! Good night!

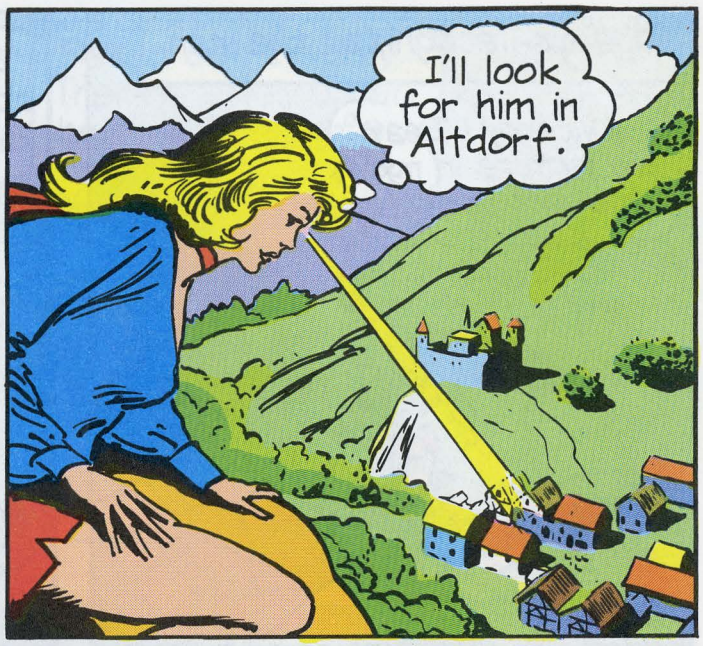

Linda Lee Danvers changed to become Supergirl!
Ms. Roy wants a report, and that's what she'll get!

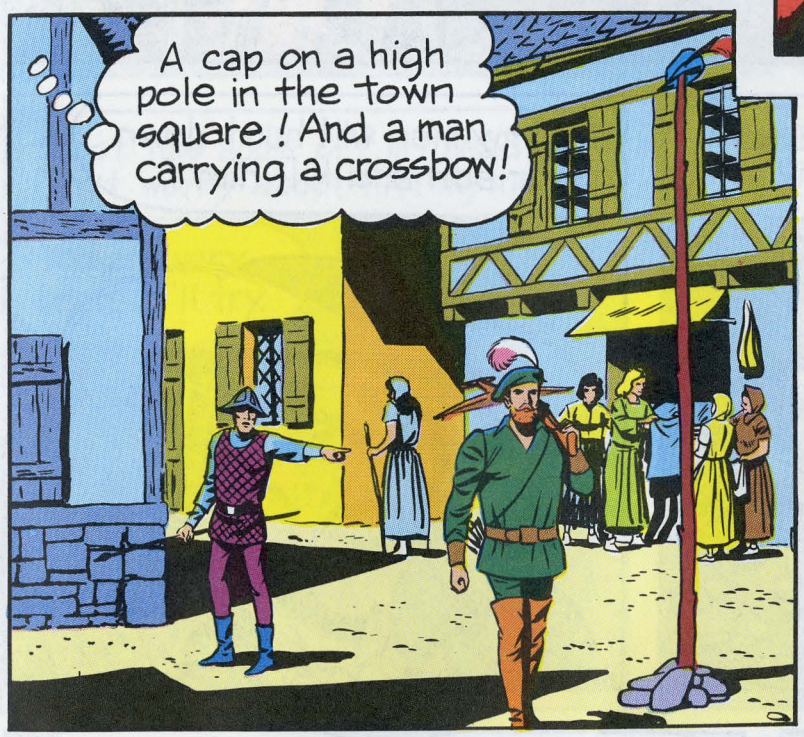

Switzerland, here I come!


She zoomed to Switzerland in a minute!
The town of Altdorf is there.

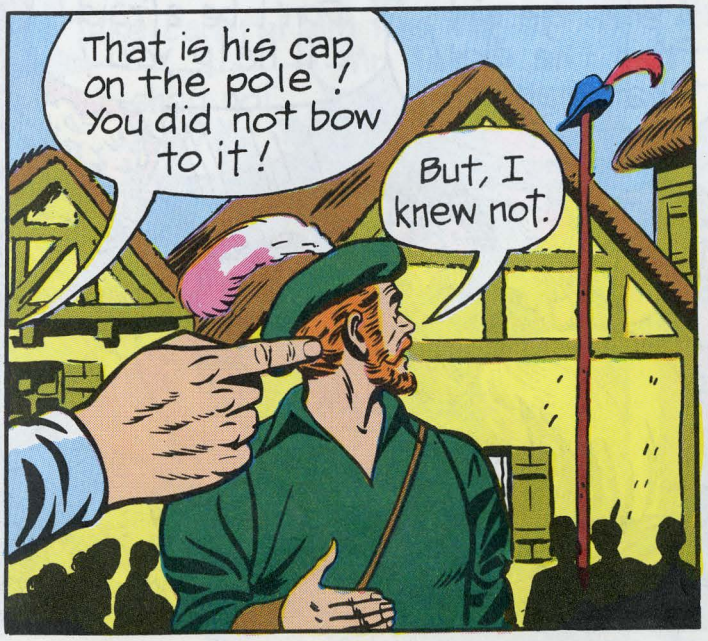

Supergirl flew through the years to William Tell's home!
DEC
OCT
1917


I'm back in the year 1307 when William Tell had his famous quarrel.

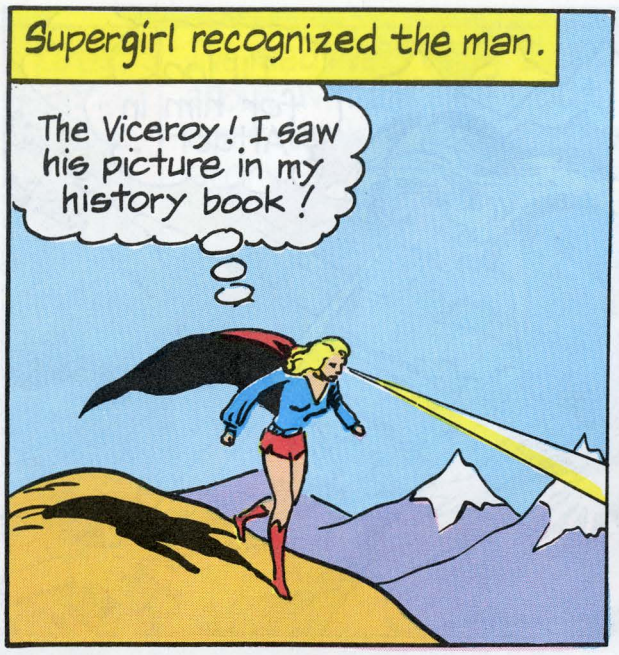

I'll look for him in Altdorf.


A cap on a high pole in the town square! And a man carrying a crossbow!

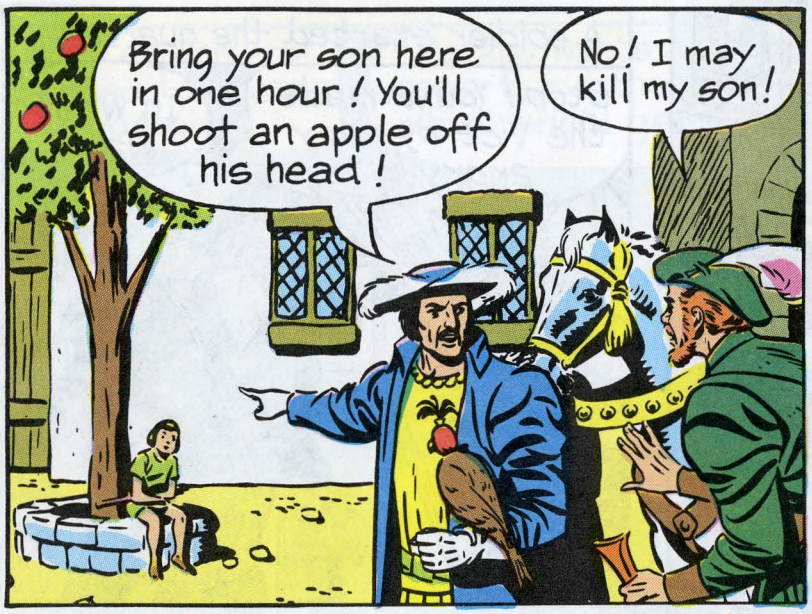
A soldier started the quarrel.
Stop! You've made the Viceroy very angry!
In what way?


That is his cap on the pole! You did not bow to it!
But, I knew not.

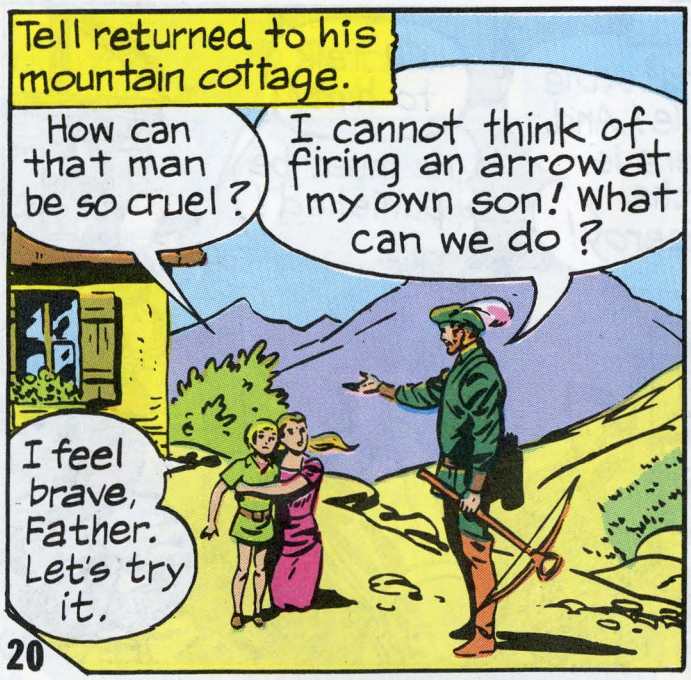
That's the rule! And here is the Viceroy!
I'll talk to him!
He must be punished!


Supergirl recognized the man.
The Viceroy! I saw his picture in my history book!

Swiss fool! You didn't obey my rule! Don't I know you? William Tell!
Yes, I am Tell.


Bring your son here in one hour! You'll shoot an apple off his head!
No! I may kill my son!

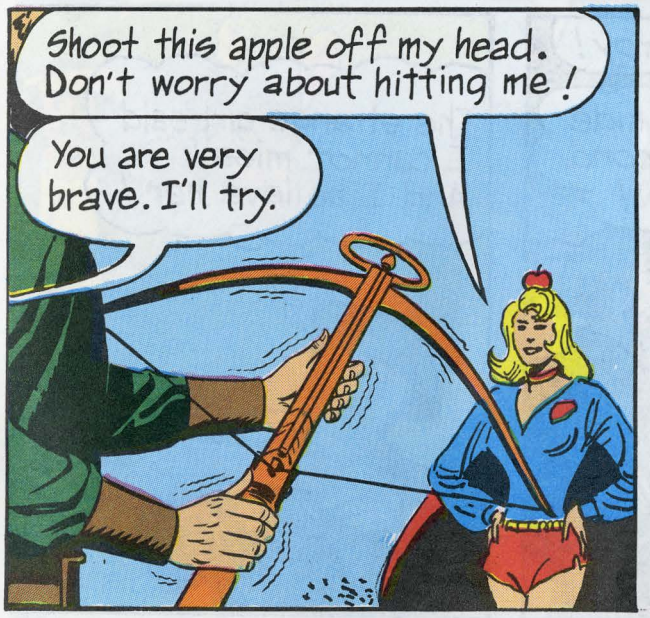
Then my men will hunt down your son and kill him!

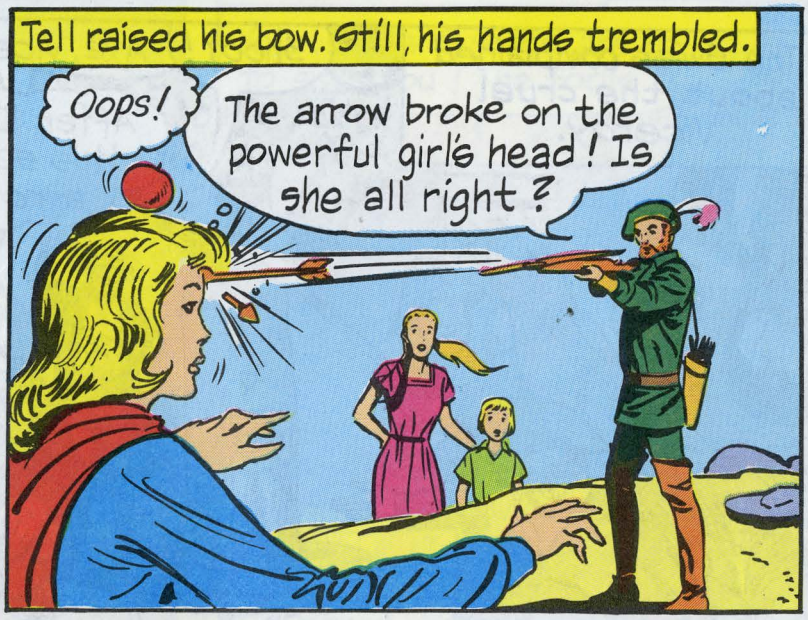

Tell returned to his mountain cottage.
How can that man be so cruel?
I cannot think of firing an arrow at my own son! What can we do?
I feel brave, Father. Let's try it.

A strange girl from the sky! What magic is this?
Don't be afraid! I'll help you!

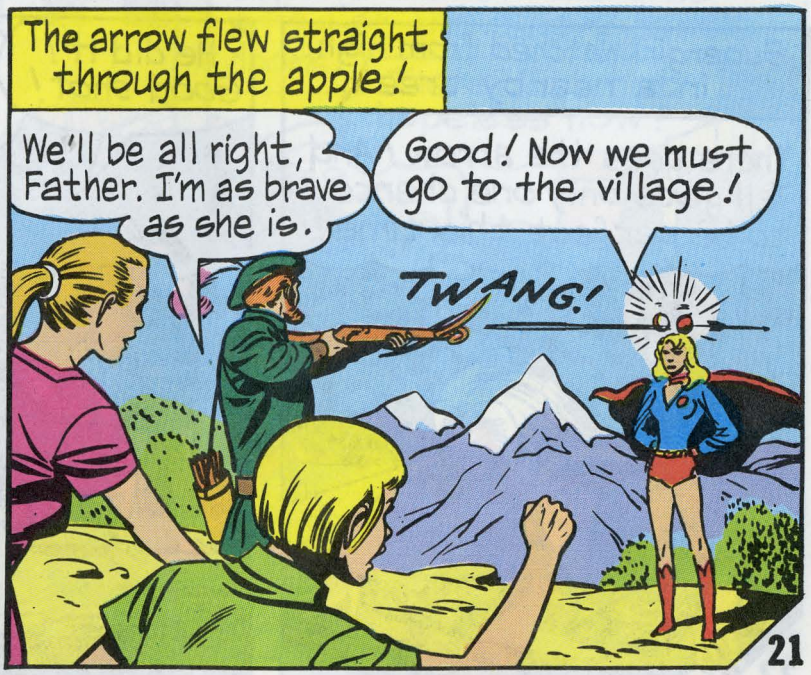
I know that you can do it, so there is nothing to fear!
My hands tremble! I am afraid to do this.

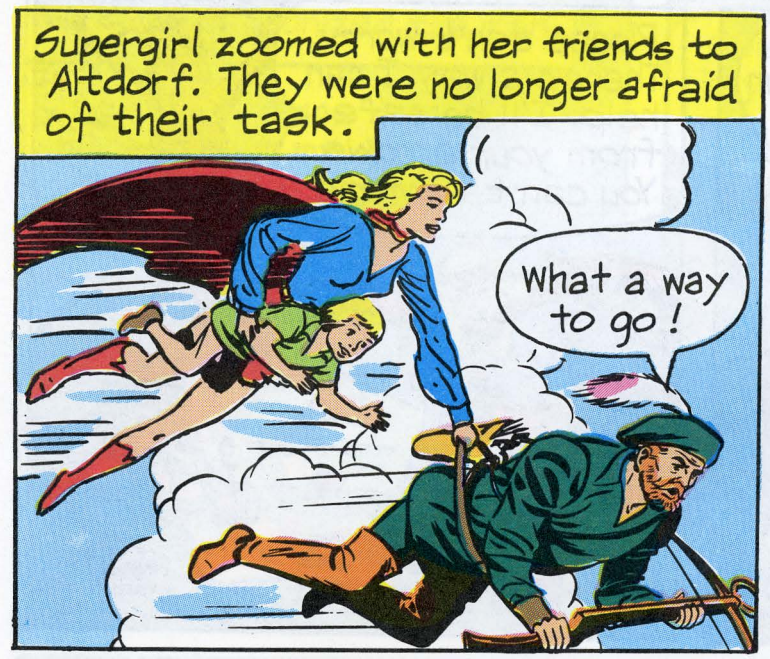
Please don't worry. There's a way I can help. I'll be safe from your arrows. You can't harm me.

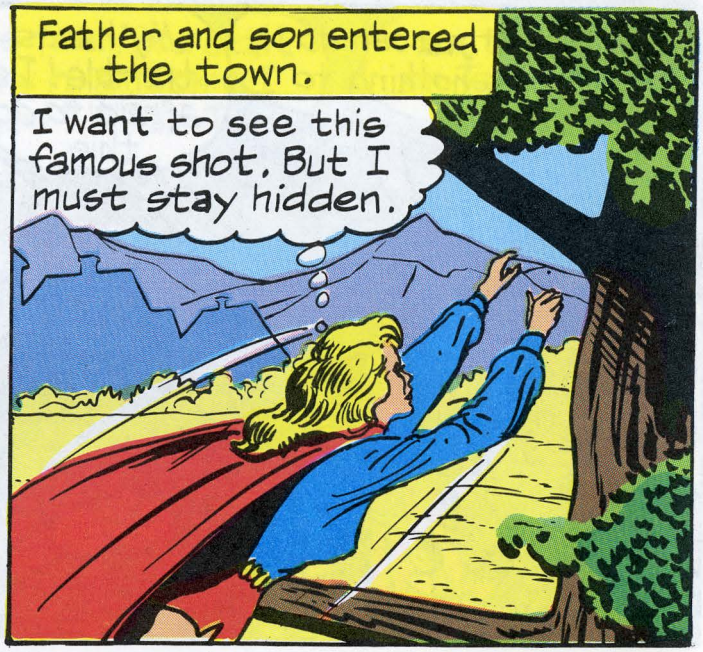

Shoot this apple off my head. Don't worry about hitting me!
You are very brave. I'll try.

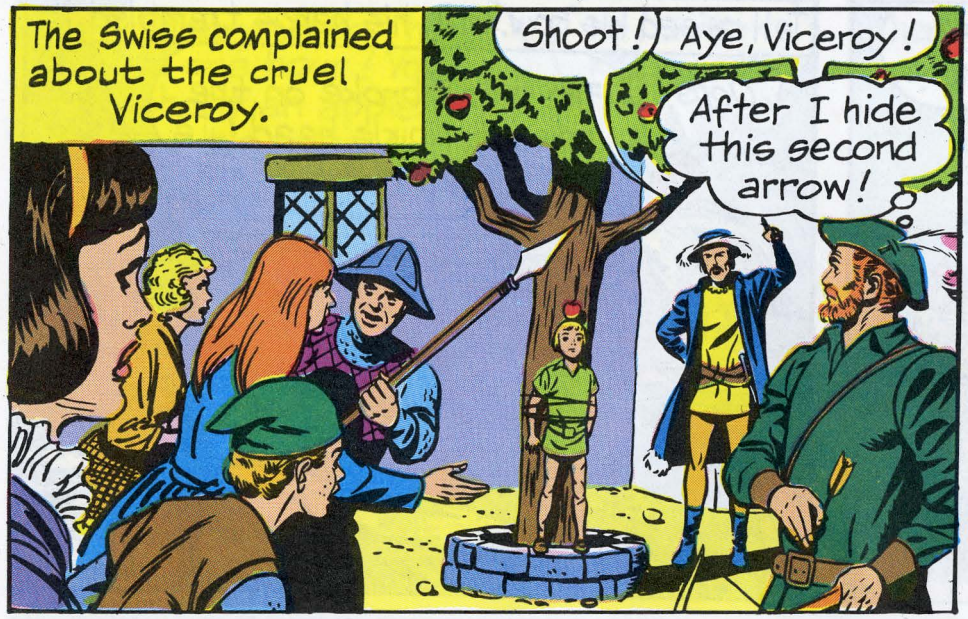

Tell raised his bow. Still, his hands trembled.
Oops!
The arrow broke on the powerful girl's head! Is she all right?

Take careful aim this time, Mr. Tell!
I shall not fail!

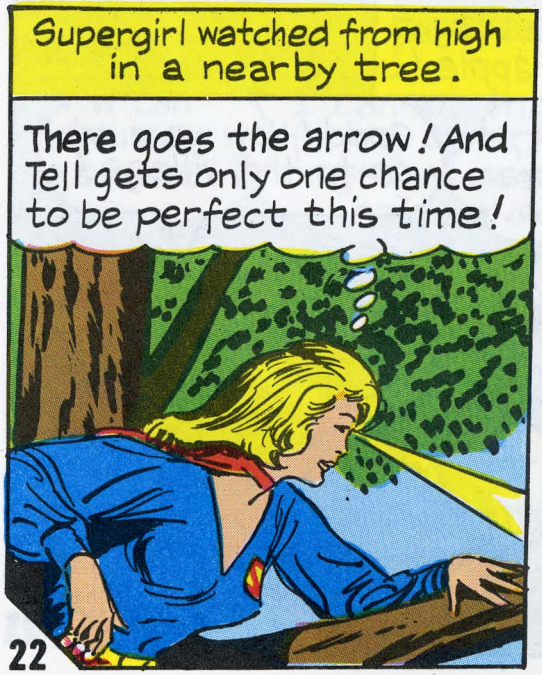

The arrow flew straight through the apple!
We'll be all right, Father. I'm as brave as she is.
Good! Now we must go to the village!
TWANG!


Supergirl zoomed with her friends to Altdorf. They were no longer afraid of their task.
What a way to go!


Father and son entered the town.
I want to see this famous shot. But I must stay hidden.

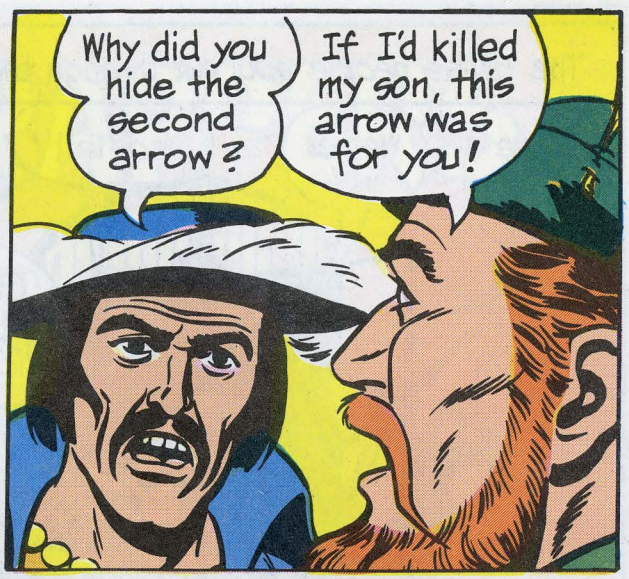

The Swiss complained about the cruel Viceroy.
Shoot!
Aye, Viceroy!
After I hide this second arrow!

The strange girl said I cannot miss! And I believe her!


Supergirl watched from high in a nearby tree.
There goes the arrow! And Tell gets only one chance to be perfect this time!

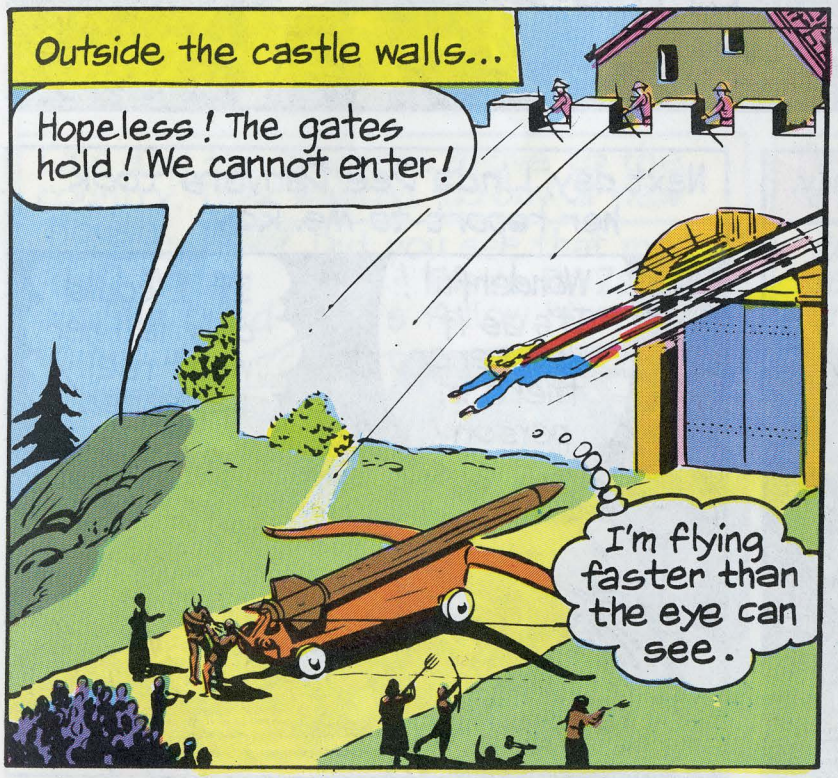
He did it! Good shot!
History will remember this moment!

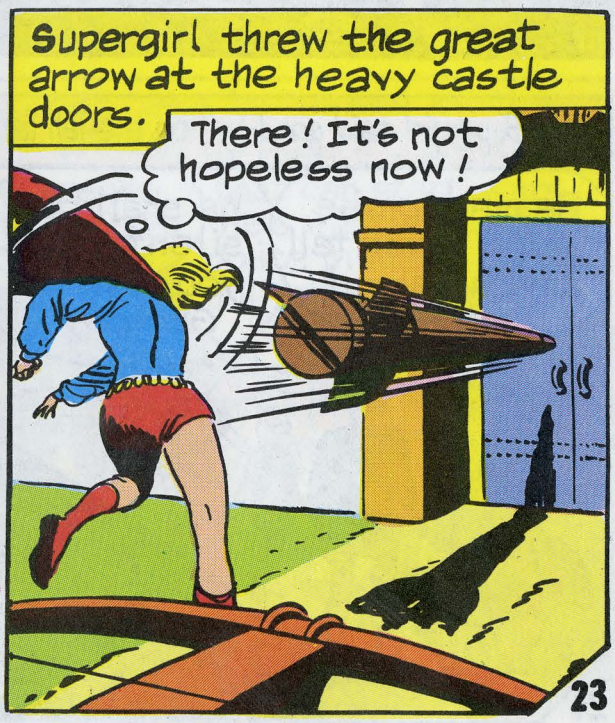
The Swiss people cheered the brave father and son.
Be silent, dogs! I'm not finished with this man.


Why did you hide the second arrow?
If I'd killed my son, this arrow was for you!

Put him in jail!
Get back or die!

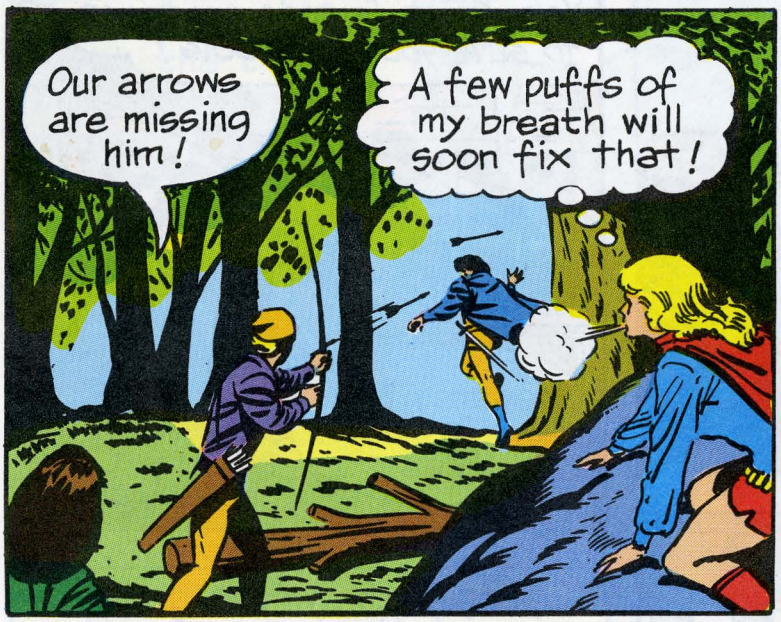
Later, in the castle...
Your Swiss friends are trying to save you! The fools!
Beware! We may yet trade places!


Outside the castle walls...
Hopeless! The gates hold! We cannot enter!
I'm flying faster than the eye can see.


Supergirl threw the great arrow at the heavy castle doors.
There! It's not hopeless now!

The Swiss people poured through the gates.
We've done it!
We're in!
Find Tell!
Catch the Viceroy!

Inside the castle...
Run, Viceroy! Run!
The secret tunnel will take me to safety!


Our arrows are missing him!
A few puffs of my breath will soon fix that!

He's pinned to the tree!
Shoot no more!
The end of the Viceroy!

Later, Supergirl said good-by to the Tell family.
Please promise you'll never tell any one about me.
We shall be silent since you wish it. Good-by!

Next day, Linda Dee Danvers took her report to Ms. Roy.
Wonderful! It's as if you were there in person!
If I could only tell her what really happened!
The End

The TINY TRAPPERS

Teri and Ted Trapper are detectives. The whole city knows them as the Trappers. Suddenly, things became big and dangerous for Teri and Ted. The Trappers became as small as your thumbs! But was it a trick? Look carefully!

Be careful, Teri! Now that we're small, all of our troubles are huge!

One day, the Trappers drove to the country. They wanted to buy a new house.

Ted! Watch out! He tried to hit us!

Did you see that man, Teri? That's Dr. Zarro! Let's follow him.

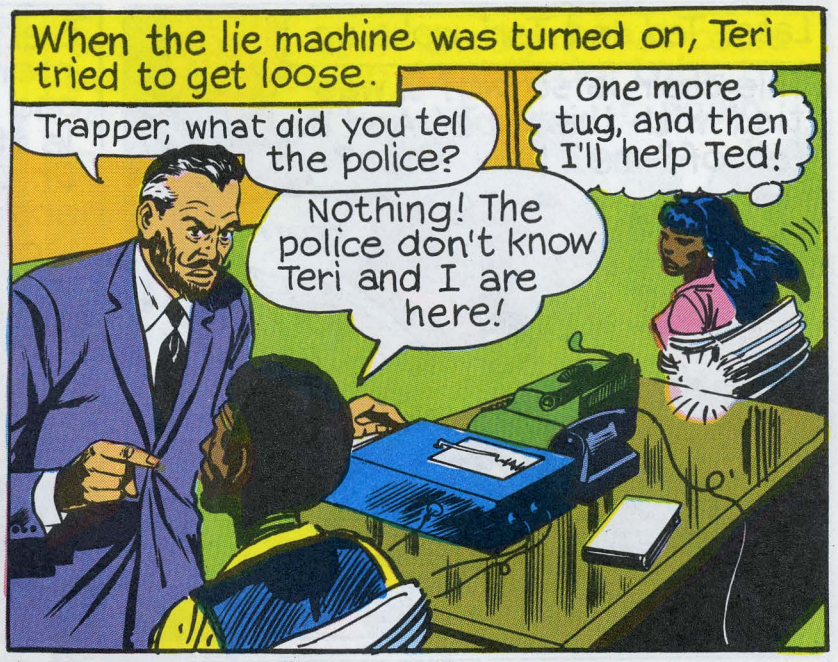
They soon came to the end of the road.

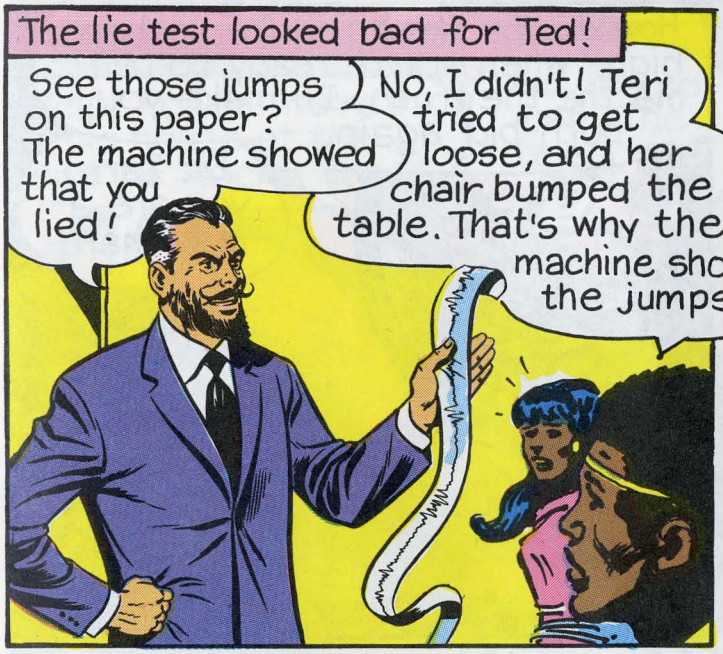
Why are we here? Who's Dr. Zarro?

He invents machines that can start wars. He's wanted by the police in many cities. I'll call them now on our radio.

Wait, Ted! Let's find out what he's doing here.
Dr. Zarro is a dangerous man. Let me think. Let's pretend we want to buy this house! We can look around when he opens the door! Come on, Teri!
No good, Ted! Let's climb over the wall in the back.
It's a pretty nice house! I wonder if he'd really sell it!
That can't be the front door!
No, it looks like Dr. Zarro's lab. Maybe he's working on a new machine.
Oops! Run, Teri!
Too late for that, I'm afraid! My new stun gun will stop you in your tracks!
A few minutes later...
You are both very clever. But you are not clever enough to fool Dr. Zarro! I wanted you to follow me into this trap.
But why? What do you want of us?
You've been interested in my work for a long time. You know too much about my war machines. What have you told the police about me?
Nothing, Dr. Zarro! And I wouldn't tell you if I did!

I don't believe you. I'll learn the truth with my lie machine.
Go ahead! Give me a lie test! I have nothing to hide from you.

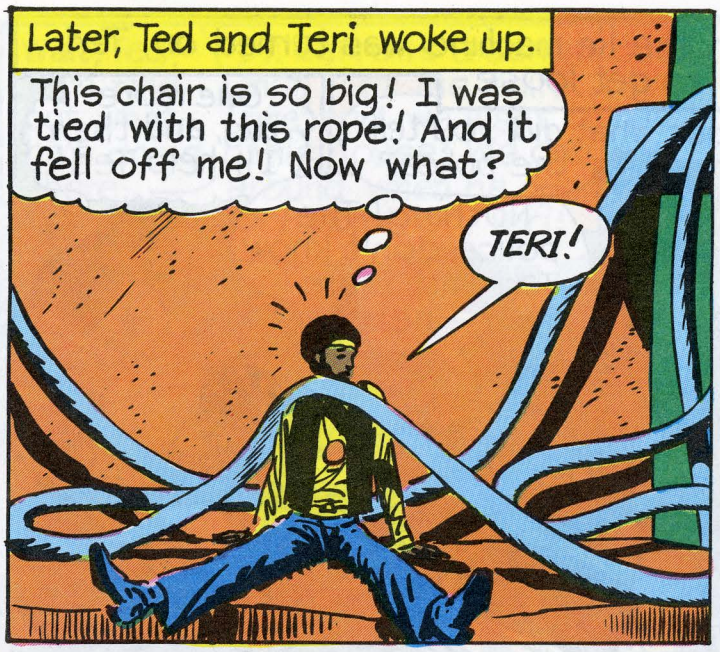

When the lie machine was turned on, Teri tried to get loose.
Trapper, what did you tell the police?
Nothing! The police don't know Teri and I are here!
One more tug, and then I'll help Ted!

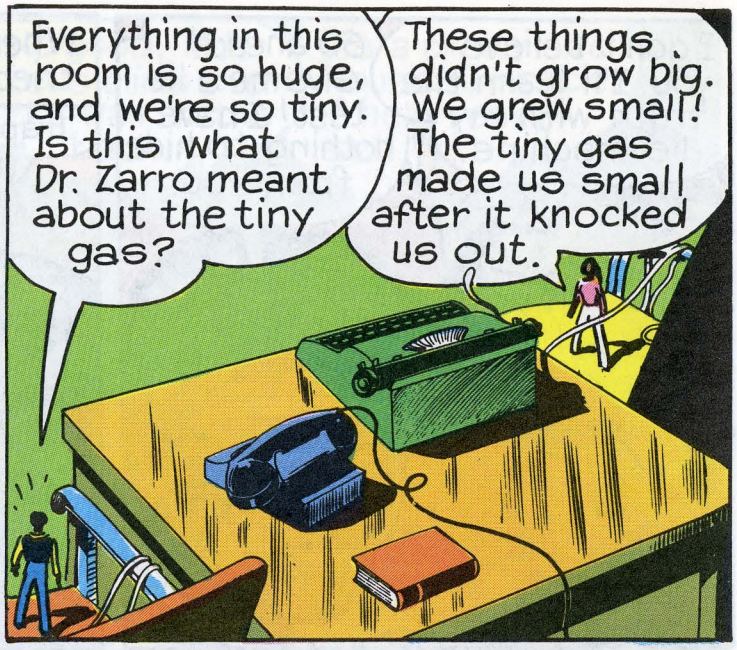

The lie test looked bad for Ted!
See those jumps on this paper? The machine showed that you lied!
No, I didn't! Teri tried to get loose, and her chair bumped the table. That's why the machine showed the jumps!

You lie again, Trapper! I'm going to do something terrible to both of you!
He won't listen, Teri! I can't make him believe anything!

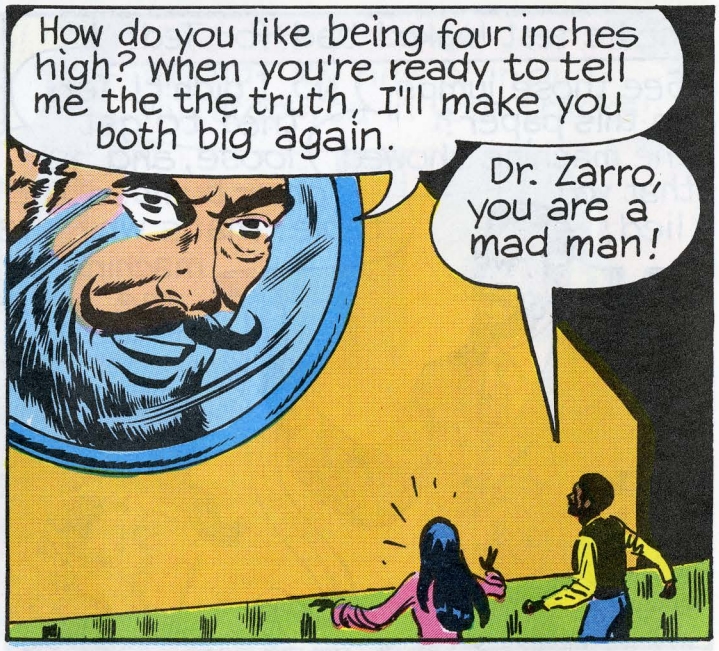
This machine shoots tiny gas. You will both meet dangers that you have never known.
Tiny gas? What are you talking about?

Ted, everything is going dark! Whuff!
I can't get loose! We need help! I'm passing out... phoo...


Later, Ted and Teri woke up.
This chair is so big! I was tied with this rope! And it fell off me! Now what?
TERI!


Everything in this room is so huge, and we're so tiny. Is this what Dr. Zarro meant about the tiny gas?
These things didn't grow big. We grew small! The tiny gas made us small after it knocked us out.

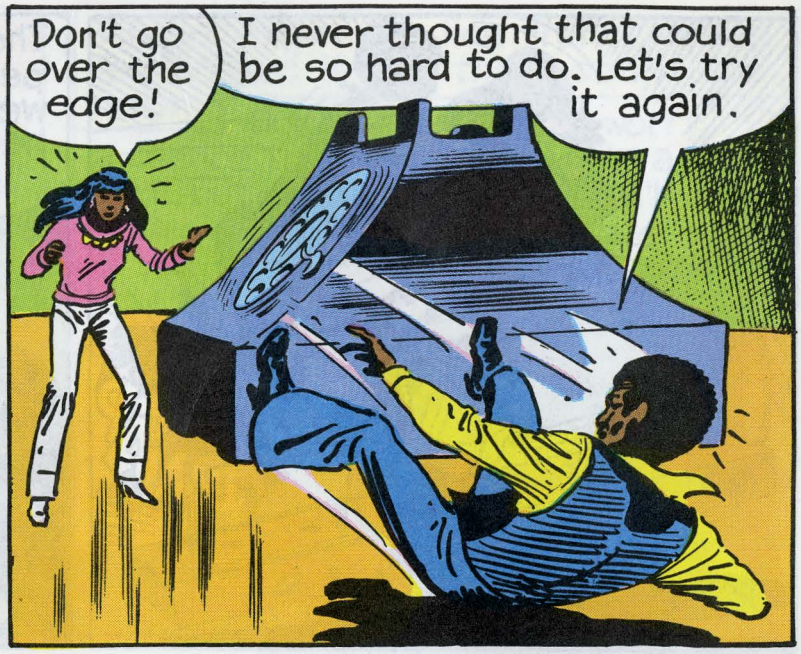
Maybe we can use this telephone. We'll call the police.
Look! He's outside the window!

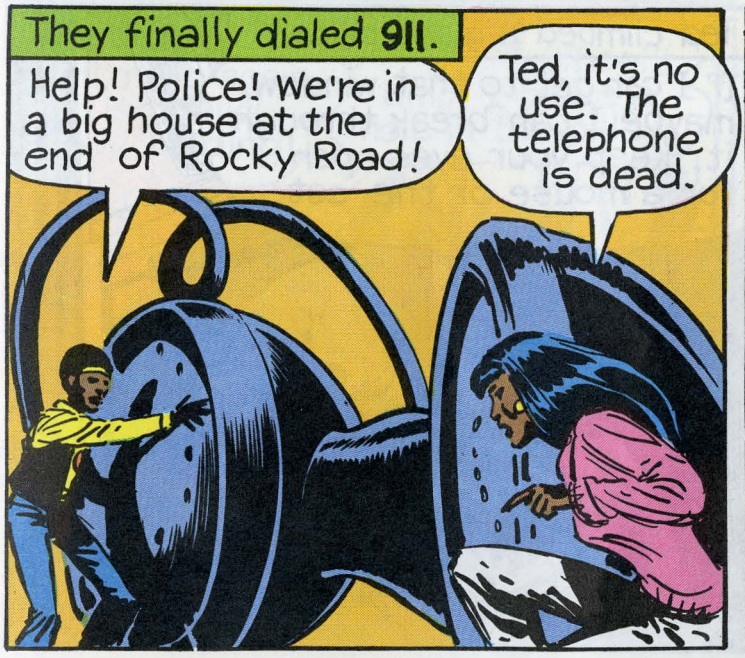

How do you like being four inches high? When you're ready to tell me the the truth, I'll make you both big again.
Dr. Zarro, you are a mad man!

He has a tiger out there!
No, Teri, it's only a house cat. But it could think we're fat mice! Wow! Let's work on the telephone!

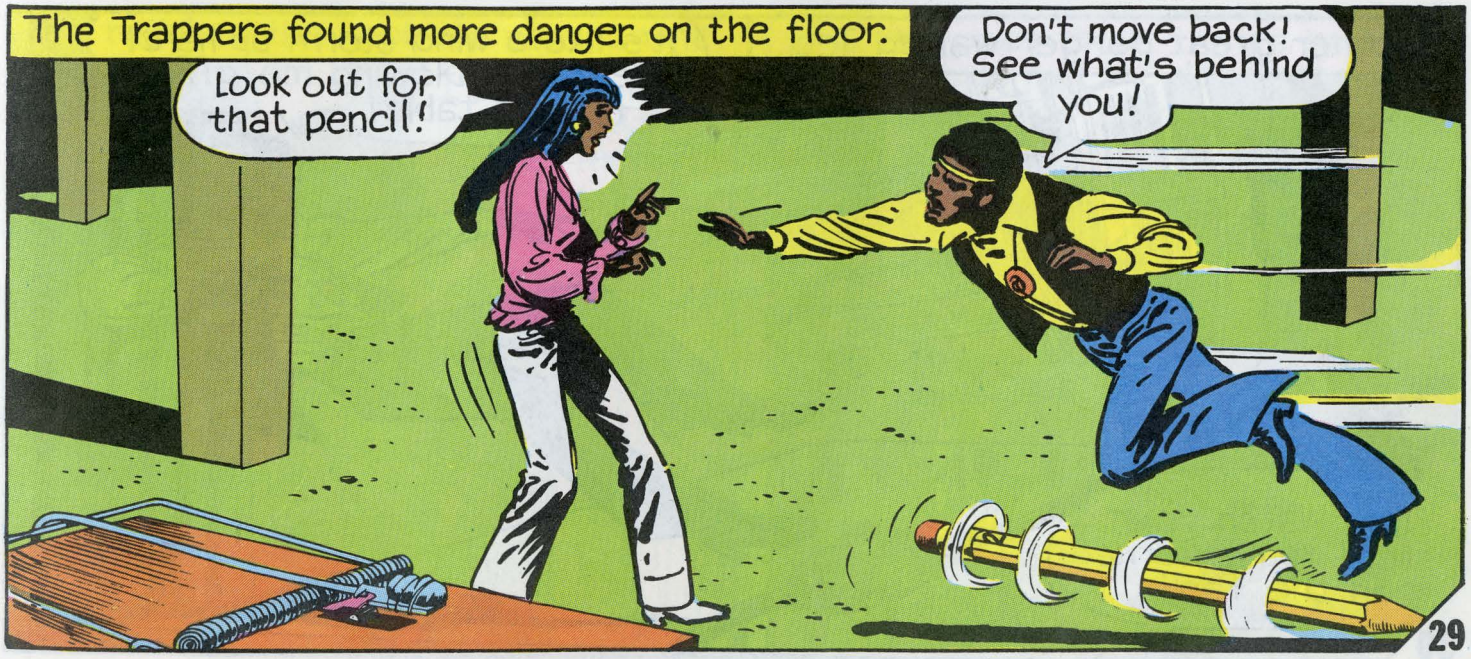
How can you talk and listen at the same time?
Set it down on the table. Then I'll talk and you listen.

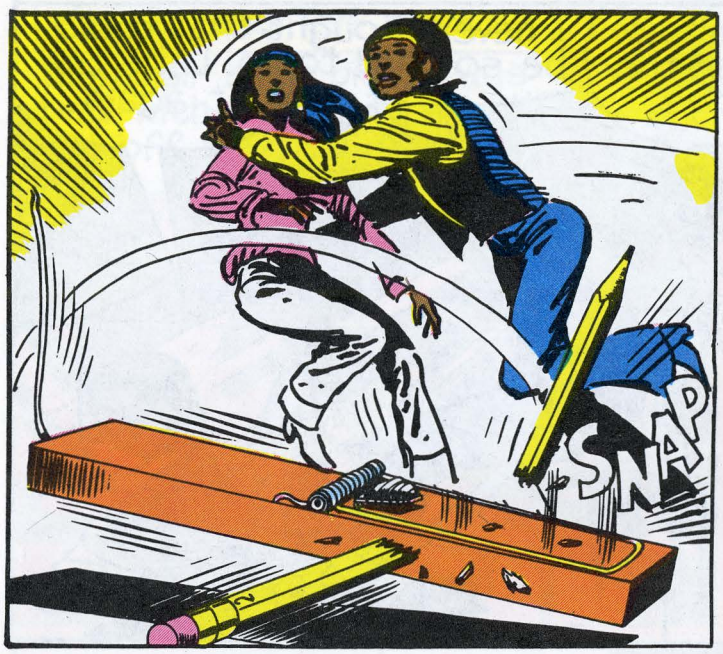
Turning the dial was hard work for tiny Ted!
I'll try to dial 9 first. Help me, Teri. My feet are slipping.
GHI 4
JKL 5
6
PRS 7
TL 8

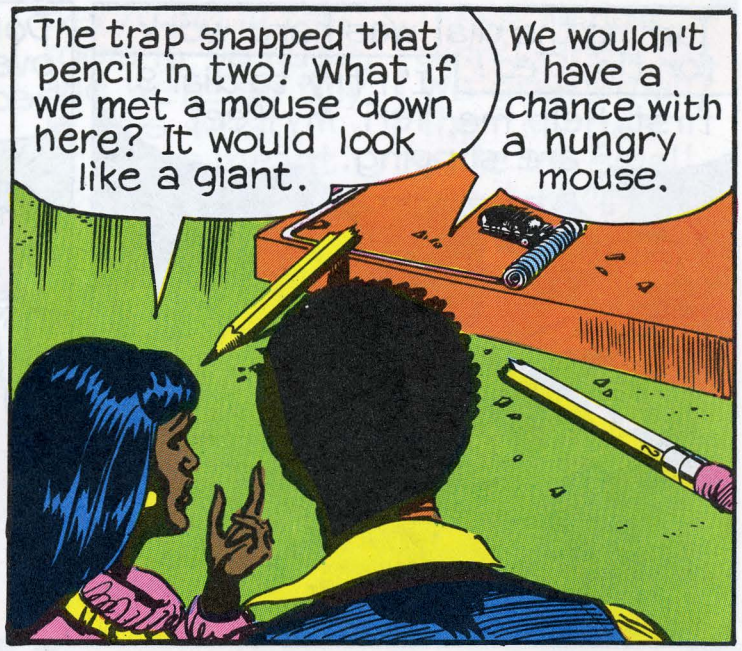

Don't go over the edge!
I never thought that could be so hard to do. Let's try it again.

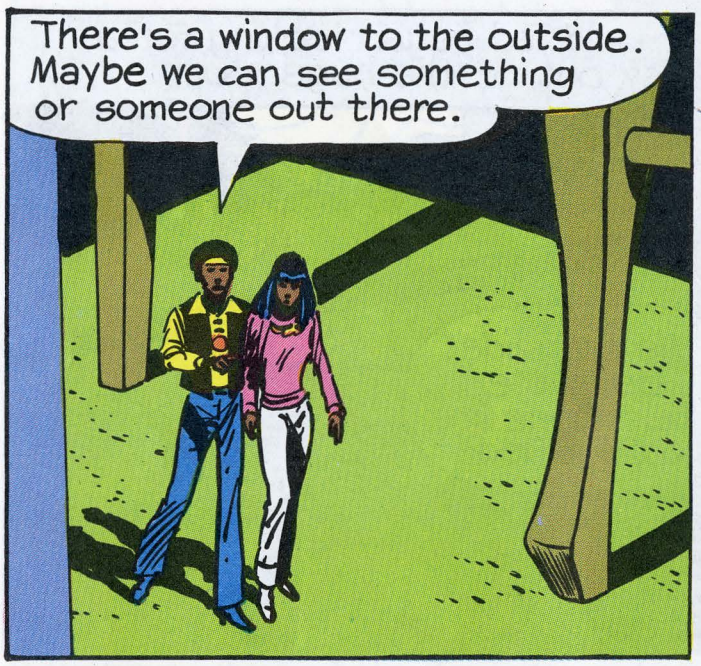

They finally dialed 911.
Help! Police! We're in a big house at the end of Rocky Road!
Ted, it's no use. The telephone is dead.

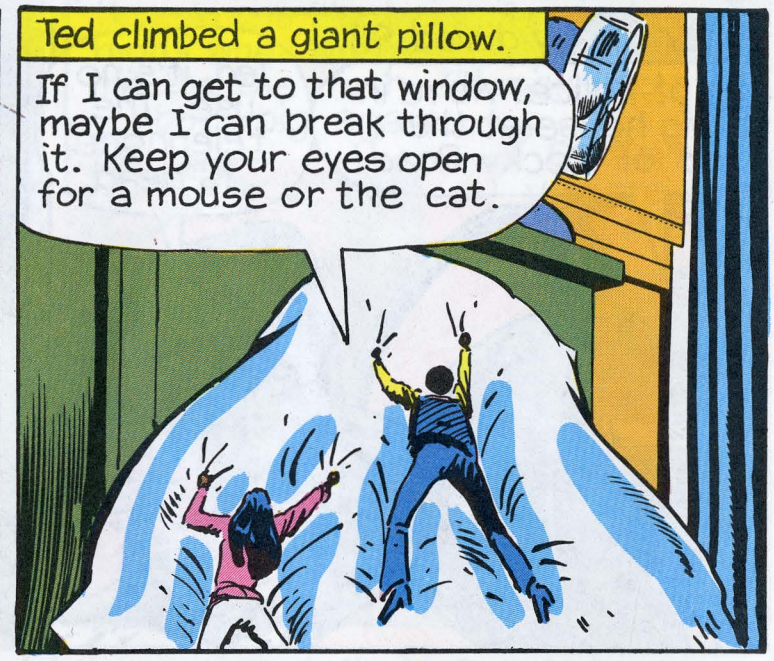
Teri and Ted began looking for a way out of the huge room.
We can slide down the telephone line to the floor.

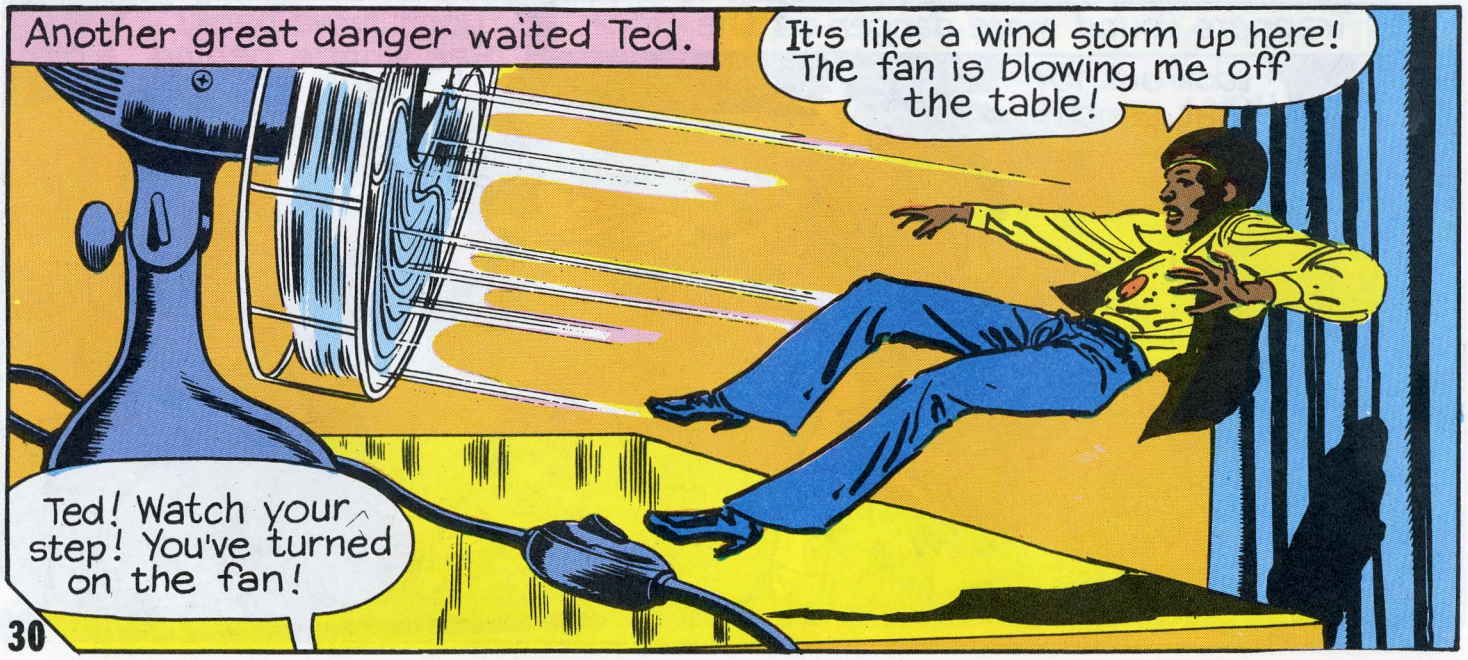

The Trappers found more danger on the floor.
Look out for that pencil!
Don't move back! See what's behind you!

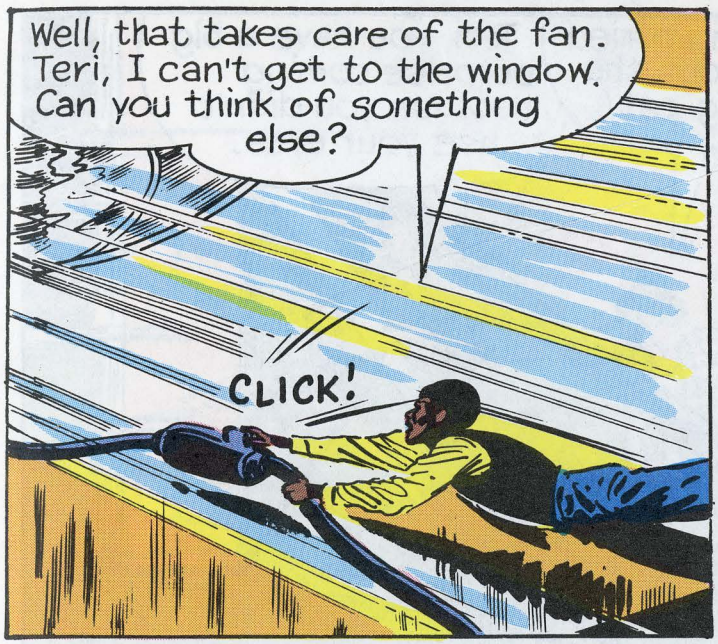

SNAP

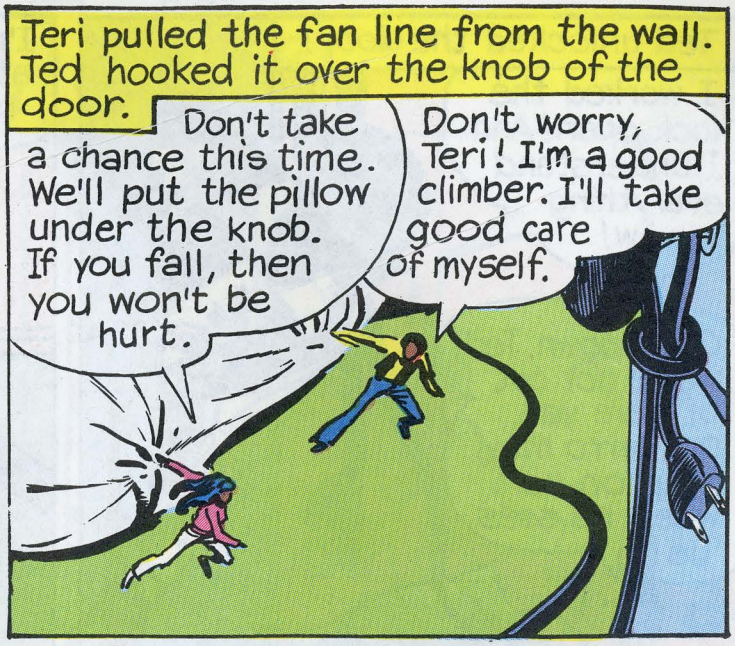

The trap snapped that pencil in two! What if we met a mouse down here? It would look like a giant.
We wouldn't have a chance with a hungry mouse.


There's a window to the outside. Maybe we can see something or someone out there.


Ted climbed a giant pillow.
If I can get to that window, maybe I can break through it. Keep your eyes open for a mouse or the cat.

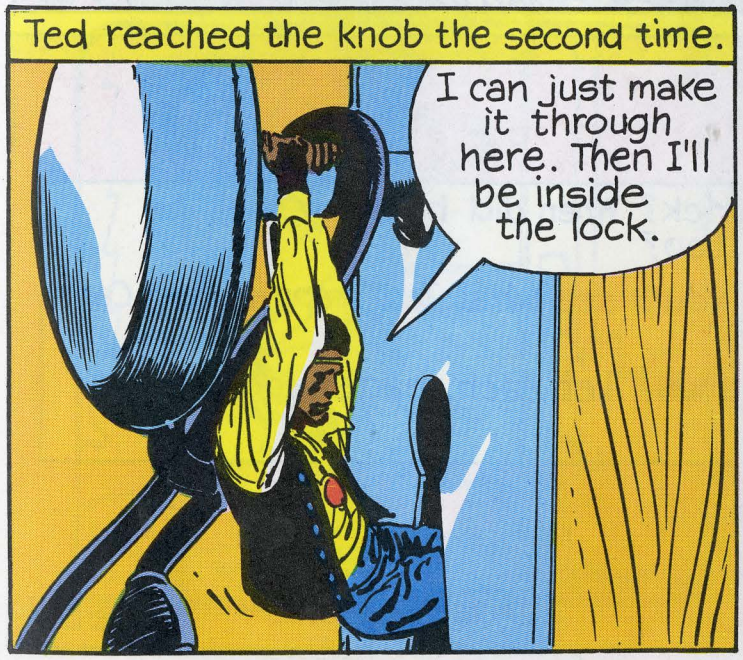

Another great danger waited Ted.
It's like a wind storm up here! The fan is blowing me off the table!
Ted! Watch your step! You've turned on the fan!


Well, that takes care of the fan. Teri, I can't get to the window. Can you think of something else?
CLICK!

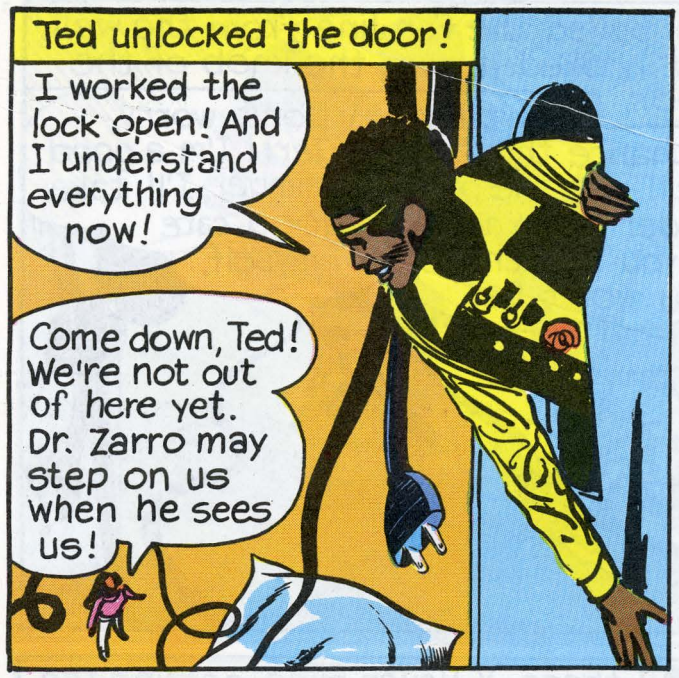

Teri pulled the fan line from the wall. Ted hooked it over the knob of the door.
Don't take a chance this time. We'll put the pillow under the knob. If you fall, then you won't be hurt.
Don't worry, Teri! I'm a good climber. I'll take good care of myself.

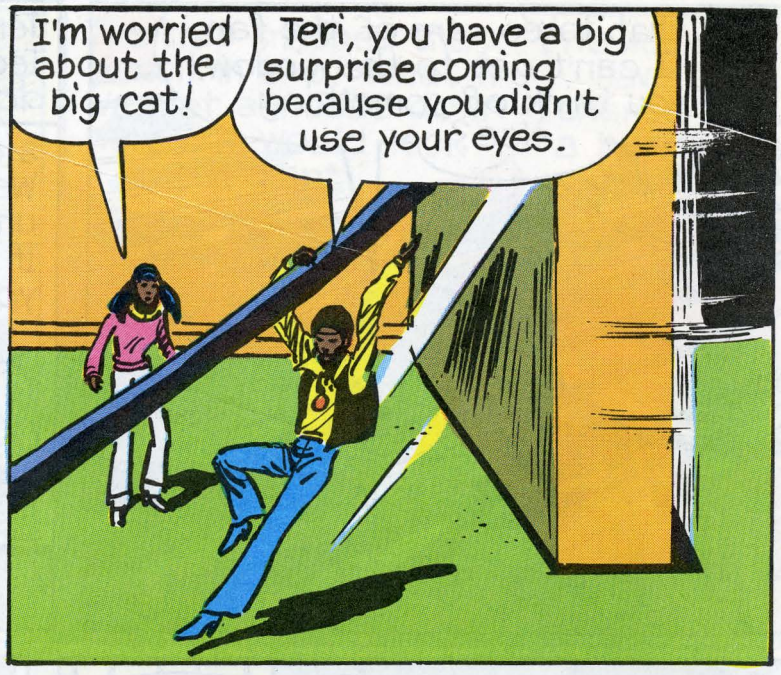
And down came tiny Ted!
Well, hello again, Mr. Big Talk! Happy landing!
Whoof! Ump! I broke a hole in the pillow.

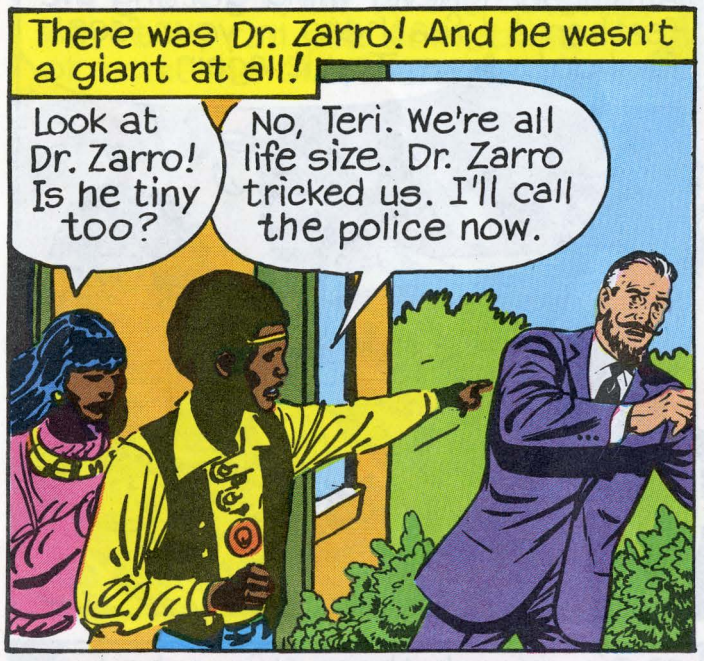
All these feathers! Kachoo!
Never mind getting the feathers in your face. Try it again.


Ted reached the knob the second time.
I can just make it through here. Then I'll be inside the lock.

If I can push these things back, then Teri can pull the door open.







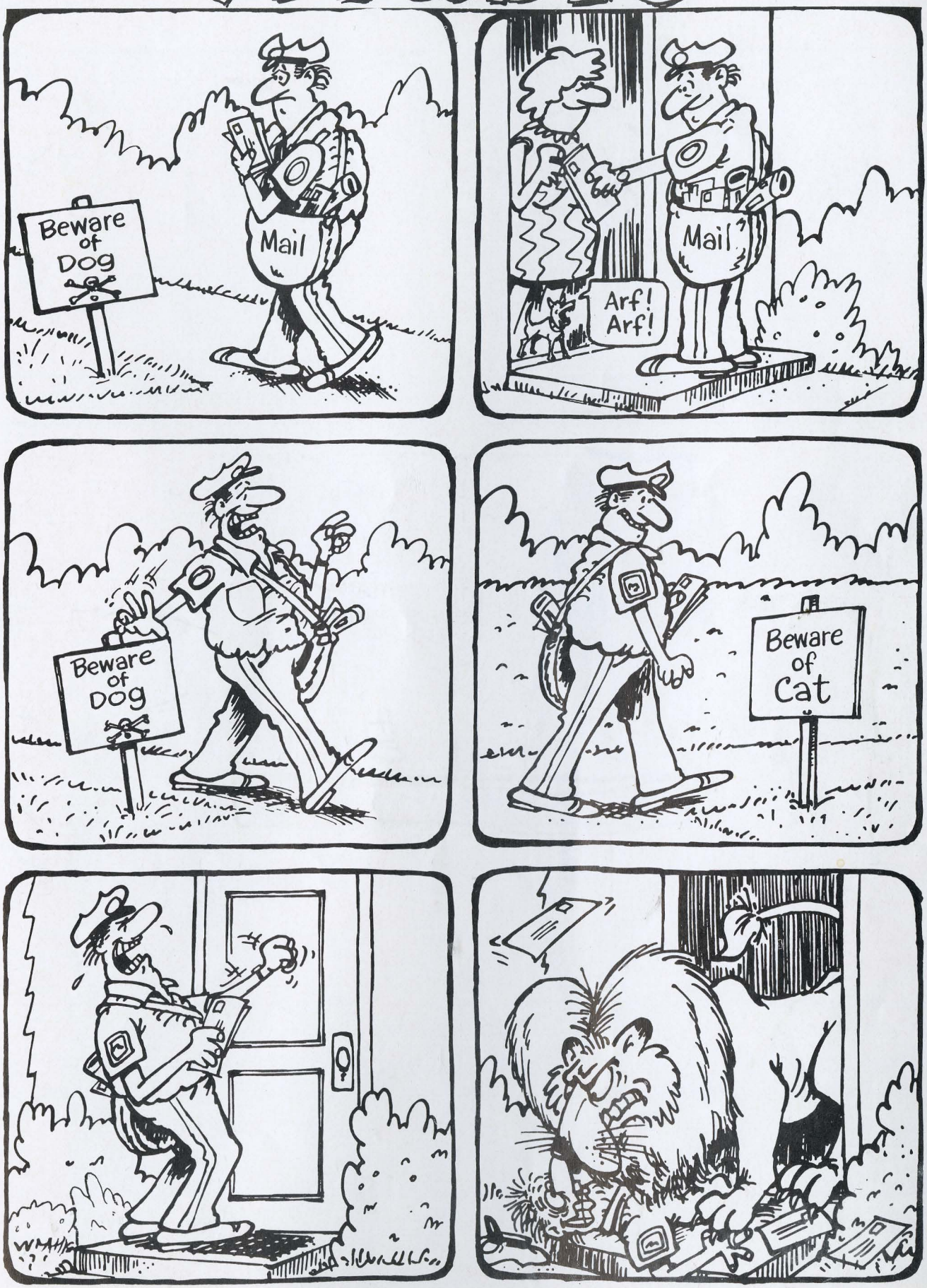
Yes, how did Ted learn about the trick? When did he know that he wasn't really tiny? Were you fooled too?

Look carefully at the pictures and you'll see what Ted Trapper saw. Can you find the secret of the huge room?

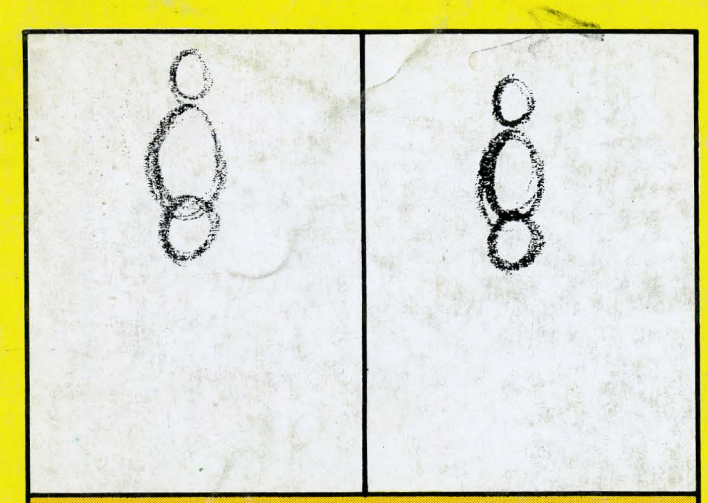
When you find it, don't tell your friends! Let each reader look for Dr. Zarro's trick.

The End

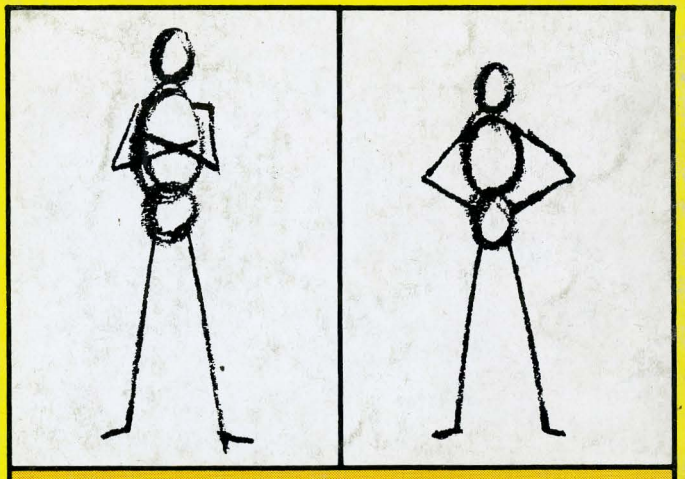
A Fable


Beware of Dog
Mail
Mail
Arf! Arf!
Beware of Dog
Beware of Cat
WHAM

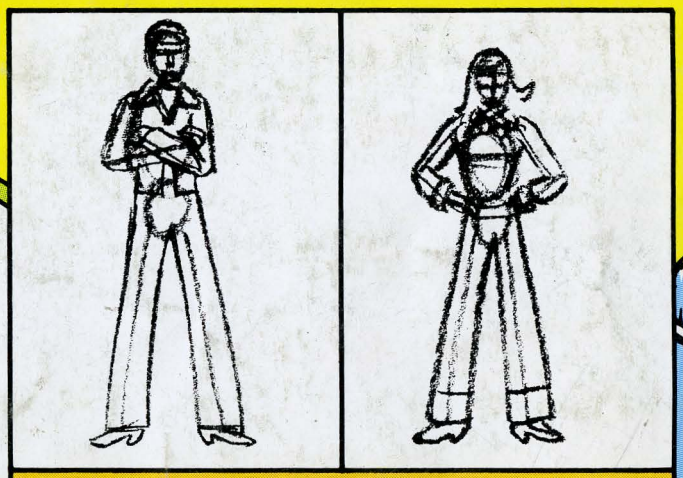
Make the Trappers Tiny!



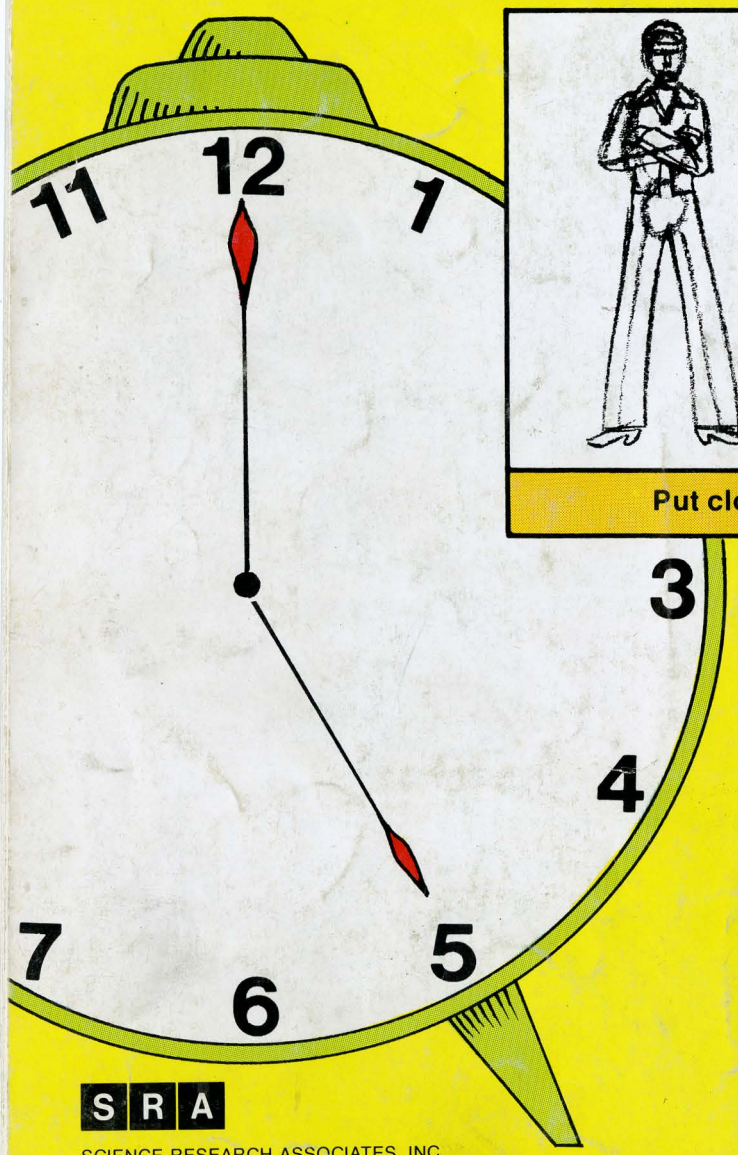
Draw two different sets of circles.



Add arms and legs. Make them different.



Put clothes on Ted and Teri.



Draw them tiny on a page.
Draw big things around them.

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